

IRNA: Rushdie earned pardon

TEHRAN (R) — Iran's official news agency IRNA, in an abrupt reversal of its position, said Saturday that novelist Salman Rushdie had earned a pardon with his statement expressing regret for distress caused to Muslims by "The Satanic Verses." IRNA said the statement, though for too short of a repentance, is generally seen as sufficient, enough to warrant his pardon by the nation in Iran and elsewhere in the world. Earlier reports by the government-run agency said Rushdie's statement fell short of the apology demanded by President Ali Khamenei during a Friday prayer sermon (see page 3). The IRNA statement, monitored in Niassa, came at the very end of a stormy day of Iranian newspaper commentary saying that the judge put on Rushdie's head amounted to murder. The report said the Persian daily Etemad wrote that "to pay one man to kill another man is unwarranted public reaction from Iranian officials or clerics to Rushdie's statement."

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Klibi makes Amman stopover

AMMAN (J.T.) — Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Klibi Saturday made a stopover in Amman's Queen Alia International Airport and held a brief round of talks with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasbi. The Jordan News Agency, Petra, quoted Klibi as saying that the founding of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) grouping Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and North Yemen was a link in a chain that would ensure total Arab integration. In a statement issued in Tunis Friday, Klibi compared the ACC with the Arab Maghreb Union, which was proclaimed Friday, and the Gulf Cooperation Council, and said all three would accelerate the Arab march towards unity. Klibi stopped over in Amman on his way to Kuwait to attend a meeting of a six-member Arab League committee entrusted with finding a solution to the Lebanese problem. Jordan is a member of the committee, which was set up in January at the foreign ministers level.

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Crown Prince, Rifai, Hindawi, Khasawneh, other ministers, officials hold talks with Mayor King, Queen, Mayor review UNESCO role

AMMAN (J.T.) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor Saturday discussed issues related to environmental protection and preservation of archaeological sites in Jordan with the head of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

In a meeting with UNESCO Director-General Federico Mayor, the King and Queen also discussed possibility of creating awareness of these issues through the educational system in Jordan. Mayor briefed the King and Queen on UNESCO activities in the Kingdom and the organization's global plans to raise public awareness of environmental and educational issues by the year 2000.

The UNESCO director-general stressed Jordan's great historical significance and the need to continue environmental protection and preservation of the monuments of the Kingdom's heritage. Mayor, who visited Petra Friday, expressed deep appreciation of the historical significance of the ancient Nabataean city and UNESCO's interest in supporting



HM King Hussein

Jordan's efforts to preserve the archaeological monument through extending financial support and experienced specialists. Mayor was the host of a conference on protection of environ-

ment held in Paris in October 1988 in which Queen Noor delivered a speech on environmental issues.

Earlier Saturday, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan met with Mayor and discussed with him the role that UNESCO could play in preserving the religious and cultural heritage of the Holy City of Jerusalem, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

The Crown Prince urged UNESCO to adopt measures to safeguard Jerusalem's treasures, which are threatened with destruction, Petra said. Prince Hassan also called on the organization to support the creation of a humanitarian order that guarantees human rights and ensure human dignity.

Prince Hassan and Mayor reviewed UNESCO's general programmes around the world and aspects of cooperation with Jordan in the fields of culture and education. The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Thouqan Hindawi, the UNESCO representative in Jordan and the secretary general of the Higher

(Continued on page 3)



Prime Minister Zaid Rifai Saturday holds talks with UNESCO Director-General Federico Mayor in a meeting attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Thouqan Hindawi



Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Thouqan Hindawi Friday presents the ministry's Medal of the First Order to UNESCO Director-General Federico Mayor (Petra photo)

King, Mubarak exchange views

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday telephoned Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. The two leaders exchanged views over issues of common interest.

King grants amnesty to mark ACC founding

AMMAN (J.T.) — To mark this week's establishment of the four-member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), His Majesty King Hussein Saturday issued a decree ordering the release of all administrative detainees and all prisoners who have served more than half their respective sentences. The decree also reduced by half the sentences of those serving prison terms, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

Prime Minister Zaid Rifai Saturday issued related instructions to the concerned authorities, Petra added.

The prime minister chaired a Cabinet meeting Saturday evening and briefed the ministers on the ACC founding meeting by the leaders of Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and North Yemen in Baghdad Thursday and the roles the King and the other ACC leaders played to bring the pan-Arab plan into being, Petra said.

The Cabinet decided to send a cable of support to the King, the agency added. The council

endorsed the ACC agreement and the decision will be submitted to the King for signature. The Cabinet also decided to issue postage stamps to commemorate the founding of the ACC.

The King received more cables of congratulations Saturday on the proclamation of the council. Among the senders were Chief Islamic Justice Mohammad Mbehan, Civil Defence Director Khaled Tarawneh, and the heads of municipal councils, representatives of Jordanian organisations and key public figures, Petra said.

The cables described the creation of the ACC as a crowning of King Hussein's continued efforts to unite the Arab World and raise its international standing, Petra said.

Petra also carried statements made by provincial governors, heads of local councils and private and public organisations paying tribute to the King's efforts to unite the Arab Nation. The council took birth

Thursday with the signing of its charter by the King, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

The ACC is founded with the aim of increasing Arab cooperation in economic affairs and advancing efforts for pan-Arab economic integration within the framework of the Arab League Charter.

Madaba Governor Khalil Khreisat said the creation of the ACC was a practical step reflecting collective Arab action aimed at enhancing Arab solidarity. It was also in line with the principles of the Great Arab Revolt, he said.

Madaba Mayor Ahmad Quteish voiced similar sentiments and said Jordanians take deep pride in the great achievement.

The establishment of the ACC also continued to draw wide acclaim in other parts of the Arab World Saturday. Newspapers published in

Iraq, Egypt, North Yemen and Qatar gave prominence to the historic event, describing the economic grouping as based on solid foundation, lending further strength to the Arab Nation.

The Al Thawra, Al Jumhuriya and Qadisiyah newspapers of Iraq said that new group possesses all elements of success in view of the great manpower and natural potentials and the determination by the leadership of the four countries to attain progress and development.

The dailies said that the council was essential to offset any difficulties that might arise as a result of the formation of economic alliance in other parts of the world.

The emir of Bahrain, Sheikh Isa bin Sulman Al Khalifa Saturday congratulated leaders of the ACC as well as the Arab Maghreb Union formed this week.

The Gulf News Agency said he cabled good wishes to heads of state of Iraq, Egypt, North Yemen and Jordan.

Similar cables were sent to the leaders of Algeria, Morocco, Libya, Tunisia and Mauritania, who formed the Arab Maghreb Union in Marrakesh Friday.

The Egyptian parliament sent a congratulatory cable to the four leaders of the ACC expressing support.

South Yemen Friday said it had been "closely following up" the development of the Arab World's two latest groupings and it welcomed their aim at increasing economic cooperation.

Such cooperation, said a statement read over the Aden Radio, "is one of the most prominent objectives of the Arab League."

The statement stressed that official and social circles in Aden had noted that the leaders of the two groupings "affirmed their commitment to the pan-Arab economic targets, distanced themselves from the policy of axes, and pledged adherence to the Arab League Charter."

U.S. veto kills resolution deploring Israeli practices

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The United States has vetoed a Security Council resolution strongly deploring Israeli actions in the occupied territories, where hundreds of Palestinians have been killed in the 14-month-old uprising.

The vote on the resolution late Friday was 14 in favour and one against, with no abstentions. It was the first U.S. veto since the Bush administration took office a month ago.

The U.S. vetoed another resolution critical of Israeli actions in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip in February last year.

The latest draft would have strongly deplored Israel's "persistent policies and practices against the Palestinian people in the Palestinian territories occupied by Israel since 1967."

It referred especially to the "violation of human rights, and in particular the opening of fire that has resulted in injuries and deaths of Palestinian civilians, including children."

Voting for the resolution were: Algeria, Brazil, Britain, Canada, China, Colombia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Malaysia, Nepal, Senegal, the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia.

In an effort to avoid having the Bush administration cast a veto as its first policy statement on the

Middle East, the U.S. mission offered an alternative resolution that contained implied criticism of the Palestinian protesters in the occupied territories, as well as strong criticism of Israel.

The U.S. alternative draft called on Palestinians to accept their "share of responsibility" for the current cycle of violence, and be accommodating in seeking a peaceful resolution of the problem.

The non-aligned nations rejected it and insisted on proceeding to a vote on their resolution.

"We have made clear to the government of Israel our opposition to certain Israeli practices, for example, expulsion of Palestinian residents, collective punishment, use of live fire in non-life threatening situations," said Herbert S. Okun, the second-ranking U.S. ambassador.

But, he added, "acts of violence perpetrated by Palestinians against Israeli soldiers and civilians are commonplace."

The status quo in the occupied territories was clearly unacceptable and the situation was inherently unstable and must be addressed. It could only be resolved in the context of an overall negotiated settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute, Okun stated.

The vetoed resolution would

have strongly deplored the "continuing disregard by Israel" of past council resolutions and called on it to comply with the Fourth Geneva Convention on the Protection of Civilians in Time of War.

The resolution would also have called for the exercise of maximum restraint and affirmed the urgent need to achieve, under U.N. auspices, a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the Middle East conflict.

Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar would have been asked to follow the situation by all means available to him.

U.S. veto assailed

A Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) group condemned the United States Saturday for vetoing the resolution.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) said the veto would encourage Israel's repressive measures in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"While strongly condemning this decision, the PFLP stresses that such stand by the United States constitutes a flagrant encouragement to the Zionist enemy to continue its repressive actions against the Palestinian people," a PFLP statement said.

Settler killed in Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — An unknown assailant stabbed to death a Jewish settler near Jerusalem's walled Old City Saturday.

Shlomo Cohen, 21, was stabbed in the heart with a pocket knife at about 7 p.m. as he and a friend walked outside the Old City wall, police said.

Cohen struggled briefly with his assailant after the stabbing, ran for a few metres, collapsed and died, police said. When reporters arrived at the scene, Cohen was lying on the ground, his body covered by a blood-stained white sheet.

Police closed off entrances to the Old City and said they had rounded up more than 50 Palestinian suspects.

Cohen was the second Israeli killed in Jerusalem since December 1987 start of the Palestinian uprising. In June 1988, a Jewish settler was shot dead by a Palestinian woman, and police said at the time she had nationalist motives.

Cohen and his friend, Gavriel Hanukka, 21, were walking uphill when they noticed five men who appeared to be Arabs walking behind them, police said.

"Two of the Arabs ran ahead

and waited for Cohen and Hanukka in a little alley way. Then, they attacked Cohen, and Hanukka ran to get help," said a police official.

Cohen and Hanukka were from Masei Adumim, a West Bank settlement east of Jerusalem, police said.

The attack is expected to fuel tension between Arabs and Jews in Jerusalem. Since the start of the uprising, few Jews have entered the Old City and other areas of Arab Jerusalem for fear of being attacked.

It also comes nearly two weeks before Jerusalem's municipal election which Palestinian residents have vowed to boycott as a sign of solidarity with the uprising.

In southern Israel, police said they found the identity tags and some shoes belonging to a soldier missing since Thursday and feared dead.

Avi Sasportas, 21, a paratrooper, was last seen near a road junction outside the town of Ashkelon waiting for a lift to his house in Ashdod.

In the West Bank, the Israeli army clamped a curfew on Tul-

and Palestinians reported anti-Israeli protests on the eve of a three-day strike called by underground leaders of the revolt.

A 14-year-old Gazan, Ahmad Khalil Al Yazuri of Rafah refugee camp, died in hospital of a gunshot wound received in a clash with troops earlier this week, the army and Palestinians said.

Yazuri, a relative of jailed Islamic leader Ibrahim Al Yazuri, is the third Palestinian protester from the Israeli-held territories to die in two days.

At least 390 Palestinians have died in the uprising.

Underground leaders of the revolt have called the three-day strike starting Sunday to assert the Palestinians' right to self-determination.

Following the announcement of the death, the army clamped a curfew on Yazuri's neighbourhood in Rafah to prevent protests.

In Gaza's Jabaliya refugee camp, an 18-year-old was shot in the chest during clashes with troops, hospital officials said. The boy was in critical condition and was transferred to an Israeli hospital, the officials said.

Shevardnadze arrives today

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer with agency dispatches

AMMAN — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze arrives here Sunday on a short working visit during which he is expected to be received by His Majesty King Hussein for talks on prospects for peace in the Middle East and other issues of mutual concern. He will also hold talks with senior government leaders.

Shevardnadze, the first Soviet foreign minister to visit Jordan, arrived in Damascus Friday on a five-state Middle East visit with what he said was a new Soviet proposal for peace in the region. No details were available but most analysts attach extreme importance to whatever proposal the Kremlin is putting forward for Middle East peace at this point in time.

Shevardnadze, whose itinerary includes Egypt, Iraq and Iran in addition to Syria and Jordan, held talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam Saturday after meeting with Foreign Minister Farouq Sharaa Friday.

Shevardnadze expressed backing for Syria's stand on Middle East peace during talks with Assad, a presidential palace spokesman said.

"The Soviet leadership appreciates and supports the Syrian leadership's struggle for peace and stability in the region," spokesman Joubran Korieh quoted Shevardnadze as saying. Korieh said Assad told She-

vardnadze that Syria appreciated Soviet initiatives to defuse international tensions and promote world peace and security.

"President Assad expressed Syria's keen interest to work for a prevailing just and comprehensive peace in the region and the holding of the international conference," Korieh told Reuters.

The Soviet foreign minister's visit represents the most significant yet of Soviet diplomatic involvement and drive for peace in the Middle East, and Soviet media have said that it was aimed at probing means to convene an international peace conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Upon his arrival in Damascus Friday, Shevardnadze said "the existing circumstances are now better than before to look for a solution to the Middle East" problem. Most analysts agree, pointing out that the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan after a decade of military involvement last week has added weight to Soviet diplomatic clout and boosted Moscow's negotiating stance on various regional conflicts, including the Arab-Israeli problem in light of the recent shift to moderation by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

According to a report in the London-based Al Hayat Arabic daily, Shevardnadze was also expected to discuss with Syrian leaders Damascus-PLO relations and the Soviet foreign minister's reconciliation bid in the Syrian capital might lead to a visit to Damascus by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.



Eduard Shevardnadze

Meanwhile, an Israeli foreign ministry spokesman said Shevardnadze would be welcome if he wanted to visit the Zionist state. There was no indication of a Soviet inclination for such a visit, and no formal Israeli invitation has been extended.

In an interview with the Soviet TASS news agency, before leaving Moscow, Shevardnadze said that he did not expect his 10-day swing through the Middle East to produce any dramatic results.

Other topics on Shevardnadze's agenda for talks in the five countries include efforts for permanent Iran-Iraq peace after eight years of war and Moscow's "diplomatic" strategy for Afghanistan after ending its military engagement. Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev has sent appeals to the U.S. and the U.N. and various other international and regional organisations, including the Arab League, for help in finding a diplomatic solution of the Afghan conflict.

Aziz: ACC will help offset threats

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz said Saturday that the new four-member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) would prove a major element of stability of offsetting threats from Iran and Israel.

Aziz told a news conference the alliance signed Thursday in Baghdad would bolster Arab solidarity in facing threats and challenges from both Israel and Iran.

The council groups Iraq, Jordan, Egypt and North Yemen in an alliance aimed at coordinating economic plans, reducing tariffs and opening internal markets.

"We hope that Iran will draw the appropriate lessons from its defeat in the war and from the establishment of the council — that it should respect its neighbours and have good relations with them," he said.

The eight-year Iran-Iraq war was halted by a United Nations-sponsored ceasefire last Aug. 20 but peace talks under U.N. auspices have failed to make progress.

Aziz said the council was basically an economic grouping but pointed out that with a combined population of 80 million and armed forces of two million, the four states "enjoy a high level of political understanding and cooperation."

"This council has not come from nothing, it was built on profound and extensive political cooperation," he said.

Aziz said the four countries will remain loyal to other Arab groupings including the charter of the 22-member Arab League and the Joint Arab Defence Pact.

Aziz said he was confident the

new alliance would prove successful "unlike many previous attempts" in the Arab World.

"It is a modest beginning... but the leaders of the four countries have a clear-cut and strong determination to make it successful," he said.

Aziz said that any country wanting to join the council should have policies aligned with those of its members.

"You don't invite others to join an organisation... they have to apply and their applications will be considered," he said.

The alliance has left the door open to other members.

Gulf peace talks

Aziz also said Saturday he saw no hope of positive results from fresh peace talks with Iran if Tehran continued to dodge basic issues.

Aziz also denied Iranian claims that Iraqi forces were still occupying 1,000 square kilometres of Iranian territory.

Aziz said future talks with Iran would "have no better luck than the previous ones if the Iranian side continues evading basic issues and insists only on propaganda."

Iraq had withdrawn all its forces from Iran because it wanted a comprehensive peace, he said.

"If we wanted to use it (the occupation as a political card), we would not have withdrawn our forces and Iran would have not been able to force us out," he said.

Rocket attacks

Five people were killed Saturday when guerrillas mounted rocket attacks in various parts of Afghanistan, Afghan government radio said.

Four soldiers were killed when guerrillas bombarded a highway in Parwan province with rockets, the radio said.

Kabul declares emergency; rebels form government

KABUL (Agencies) — The Afghan government declared a state of emergency Saturday, three days after the Soviet Union completed the withdrawal of its forces from the war-ravaged country.

The government said it took the action based on reports from security forces of activities of "certain elements trying to create disturbances."

Details of the state of the emergency were not immediately available.

On Saturday, the military increased its presence around the capital with tanks and armoured personnel carriers in the streets and troops on rooftops.

The government announced that it followed two days of missile

attacks by insurgents on several cities that killed a reported 14 people. The rebels now have virtually surrounded most major cities.

Western diplomats and the rebels claim President Najibullah's government will fall now that the Soviet troops that helped it fight the insurgents have pulled out. Najibullah insists his army can withstand the rebels.

In Islamabad, Afghan rebels broke a week-long deadlock Saturday and approved a moderate as head of state and a fundamentalist as prime minister of an interim government for Afghanistan, the Afghan News Agency said.

The rebel-run agency said the supreme council of the seven-

party Mujahideen alliance nominated moderate Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi as head of state and Ahmad Shah as prime minister. A consultative council, or Shura, immediately approved both nominations without any objection, it said.

The surprise announcement came after much bickering between fundamentalists and moderates in the Pakistan-based alliance. Western diplomats had stressed how vital it was for the Shura to produce unity among feuding rebel groups striving to oust Najibullah's government.

On Friday, Najibullah appealed to the United States to stop arming the guerrillas and declared himself "completely ready" to return vast stores of

sophisticated weapons left behind by departing Soviet troops if the civil war ended.

In Moscow, officials said President Mikhail Gorbachev had sent messages to U.S. President George Bush and other world leaders asking for help in ending the war.

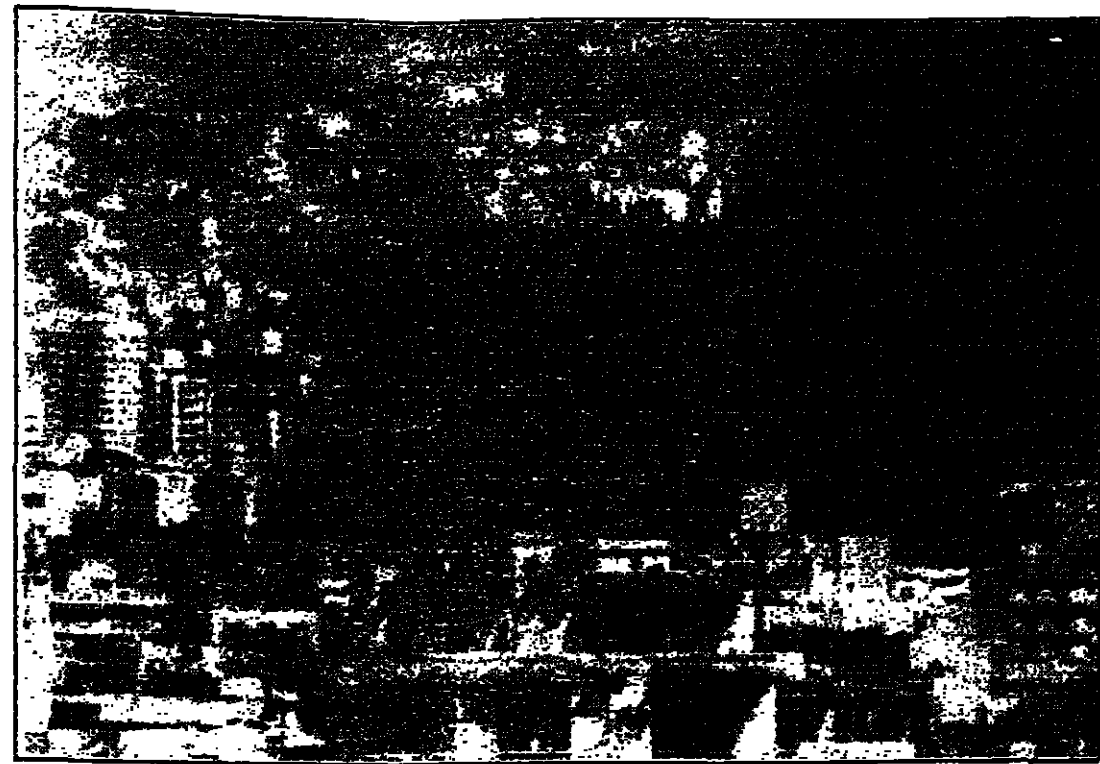
At U.N. headquarters in New York, the Soviet Union urged the United Nations to arrange a ceasefire and put pressure on the United States to stop arming the insurgents.

Afghanistan has accused Pakistan of preparing to mount a cross-border attack in the southeast of the country. TASS reported Saturday.

The official Afghan news agency Bakhtar had reported that 650

Pakistanis equipped with armoured personnel carriers were assembled on the border, TASS said.

"According to information from Bakhtar, an armed Pakistani tribal unit is again preparing a direct invasion of Afghan territory in the area of Khost," it said.



Black smoke rises from a smoldering building set ablaze by fierce battles between Lebanese army

troops and "Lebanese Forces" militiamen in east Beirut this week.

Aoun soldiers, 'Lebanese Forces' back in barracks

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Army units and rightist militiamen returned to their barracks Saturday as mediators sought to bolster a ceasefire in the struggle for control of Lebanon's Christian heartland.

A police spokesman put the casualty toll from four days of clashes at 76 killed and 200 wounded.

The spokesman, speaking under ground rules of anonymity, said that around 2,500 army commandos and 2,000 Lebanese Forces militiamen involved in fighting that rocked east Beirut and the hills above the capital were confined to their barracks.

Reporters touring the area did not find any army or militia checkpoints on the main streets of Beirut's eastern sector or in the hillside suburbs, including the Aukar district that houses the U.S. embassy.

Lebanese staff from the embassy blocked the only road to the sprawling compound, telling reporters neither Ambassador John McCarthy nor any of his American staff were at the embassy.

The embassy shut down when it was caught in the cross-fire during Wednesday's fighting. Defence Department officials in Washington said at least 13 diplomatic workers were evacuated Friday to Cyprus, leaving another 25 behind.

Christians were engaged in a drive Saturday to avert a military showdown between the Lebanese Forces and the army.

Christian Maronite church officials began negotiations with "Lebanese Forces" militia chief Samir Geagea after he said he

was ready to make concessions for peace with the army, political sources said.

A committee of Christian deputies was also to meet army commander Major-General Michel Aoun to discuss ways of bridging the deep rifts between the two main rivals for power in the Christian enclave.

Aoun, who heads an interim military cabinet vying for power with a civilian government, rejected church mediation and threatened to crush the "Lebanese Forces" unless it met his demands.

"Either our proposals are carried out quickly and peacefully within a certain deadline or there will be a final decisive showdown," the Al Safir newspaper quoted him as saying.

Western diplomats warned that all-out conflict between the "Lebanese Forces" and Aoun's 15,000 troops would ravage the Christian enclave centred on east Beirut, left largely unscathed in almost 14 years of civil war.

Maronite Patriarch Boutros Sfeir mediated a truce between the rival forces Friday which stipulated the withdrawal of "Lebanese Forces" militiamen from the streets to allow the army to take control.

Aoun said Friday that the militia must leave Beirut, stop levying taxes and close down its so-called National Development

Council (NDC) involved in educational, economic and industrial projects.

He accused the militia of collecting 200 million Lebanese pounds (\$400,000) a day from the enclave's 1.3 million people.

The militia maintains that it needs financial support to fulfil its proclaimed role as the guardian of the "last Christian community in the Middle East."

Geagea supports "autonomy" within the Christian enclave, but Aoun and his supporters believe that only a strong central authority can end civil strife and the division of Lebanon into rival sectarian cantons.

Aoun has vowed to prevent the militia setting up a state-within-a-state in Christian areas and also said he had foiled an attempt by the militia to topple him.

Geagea, softening his usually hardline tone, replied that he was ready to pay any price to end blood-letting and denied that he tried to overthrow the 53-year-old general.

The six-member committee of parliamentarians committed between Aoun's hilltop command in suburban Yarz and Geagea's walled headquarters in the seaside Karantina district.

"There's going to make certain the Lebanese Forces fighters have all been withdrawn to their barracks," an army spokesman said.

"Once this is ascertained, then we can say the ceasefire may last and the political requirements of durable peace can be tackled," the spokesman said.

Egypt: Soviet move comes at propitious moment

CAIRO (AP) — Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid Saturday welcomed Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's current Middle East tour, saying it comes at a propitious moment in regional peace efforts.

A Foreign Ministry official, who requested anonymity, said that Abdul Meguid expressed Egypt's view of the tour, which began Friday, during a meeting with Soviet Ambassador to Cairo Gennady Zhuraviev.

"We welcome Foreign Minister Shevardnadze's visit to Cairo, which comes at a time

when international conditions allow the pushing of efforts for peace in the region," the official quoted Abdul Meguid as saying.

Abdul Meguid also welcomed completion of the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan this month, and said he hoped this would pave the way for agreement among the various Afghan factions and "national reconciliation" there.

Shevardnadze arrived in Damascus Friday on the first leg of a 10-day Middle East tour. He said he carried new

ideas for an Arab-Israeli settlement which he would discuss with all parties during his swing. He gave no details.

He is due in Cairo Monday for a three-day visit, the first by a Soviet foreign minister since Andrei Gromyko in 1974.

Shevardnadze's tour also includes Jordan, Iraq and Iran. He is to return home Feb. 27.

Ambassador Zhuraviev, talking to reporters after the meeting with Abdul Meguid, characterised current relations between Cairo and Moscow as "firm." He said the Soviet Union was interested in

pushing forward efforts for a comprehensive Arab-Israeli settlement.

Soviet-Egyptian ties were badly strained in the 1970s under the late President Anwar Sadat, who expelled 21,000 Soviet military personnel in 1972 to protest Moscow's refusal to meet all Cairo's arms requests.

The Soviet Union, Egypt's principal armorer since 1955, retailed by halting arms supplies. The Soviets also resented Sadat's political rapprochement with the United States, his

peace overtures to Israel and his 1976 unilateral abrogation of a friendship and cooperation treaty 10 years ahead of its expiration.

Sadat recalled his ambassador from Moscow in 1978 and expelled the Soviet ambassador to Egypt in 1981, accusing him of meddling in domestic affairs.

Relations improved gradually after President Hosni Mubarak took office in 1981. Diplomatic ties were restored to ambassadorial level in 1984, and Abdul Meguid visited Moscow last May.

Turkey to conform to joint stand on NATO nuclear issue

ANKARA (R) — Turkey will conform with North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) policy in talks on whether to update nuclear weapons on its territory, Defence Minister Ercan Vuralhan said Saturday.

"In my opinion nuclear modernisation is a reality... Turkey is one of the countries that will be taken into consideration as far as any modernisation is concerned," Vuralhan said.

"We are saying in general, in principle we do not want to increase the number of nuclear systems in our territory. We again say this is a matter of NATO and it must be dealt with at NATO level," he told Reuters in an interview.

The question of modernising short-range nuclear missiles dominated this week's tour of 15 NATO members by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

The issue is delicate in Turkey, as in other NATO countries such as West Germany, at a time when Ankara is improving ties with its Soviet neighbour.

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl last week demanded delays in the long-planned modernisation programme pending further East-West arms talks.

Vuralhan, whose country guards one-third of NATO's border with Warsaw Pact countries, said modernisation had to be unanimous.

"If that phase is reached Turkey will evaluate her own stand," he said.

"As with other countries, Turkey will of course appear again in a constructive role (in talks). We would not say flatly we would reject anything, any kind of modernisation."

"But we will have to observe and stand in conformity with the approaches of our NATO partners," Vuralhan said.

Western diplomats said Turkey



could be asked to take modernised short-range missiles — the so-called FOIL (Follow-on-to-Lance) — and tactical air-to-surface missiles (TASM).

"Both FOIL and TASM by definition would have strike potentials within the Soviet Union," one source said.

Turkey is believed to have NATO Lances with ranges of about 115 kilometres — targeted mainly to combat an invading force — as well as nuclear-armed bombs and artillery, the sources said.

U.S. defence officials said Friday the Pentagon was taking steps to develop a new short-range nuclear missile to replace the Lance, first deployed 17 years ago.

The officials said full-scale development of the new missile would begin next year with a view to deploying it in 1995. The New York Times has said the new weapon would have a range of up to 450 kilometres.

NATO planners see any major Warsaw Pact threat to Turkey coming not necessarily from the Soviet Union in the east but from Bulgaria to the west.

Istanbul is 240 kilometres southeast of Bulgaria, straddling the Bosphorus waterway which

provides the outlet to the Mediterranean from Soviet ports in the Black Sea.

Vuralhan said although Turkey has improved ties, especially commercial, with the Soviet Union, it remained vigilant.

"We are very careful in analysing and interpreting (Soviet President Mikhail) Gorbachev's initiatives."

"We should not be easily carried away, saying 'OK now everything is over, they are not enemies at all. We have misunderstood them etc.' I am talking realities," he added.

Vuralhan said it was too early to talk of a solution to Turkey's problem with NATO allies on a joint stance for East-West talks on forces in Europe in Vienna next month.

Turkey objects to NATO being divided into three zones for the conventional forces in Europe (CFE) talks.

It would be grouped in the southern zone with Greece, with which it is at odds over Cyprus and territorial rights in the Aegean.

"Creating compartments would not be fitting to the general understanding of the indivisibility of defence or Europe," Vuralhan said.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Iraq-Iran military group to meet

BAGHDAD (R) — Military officials from Iraq and Iran will meet Wednesday for the first time to discuss ways of consolidating last August's Gulf war ceasefire, a U.N. spokesman said Saturday. The meeting, to be held in tents in a border area, will be chaired by Major-General Slavko Jovic, commander of the U.N. team of military observers monitoring the ceasefire which ended nearly eight years of war between Iraq and Iran. Jovic has said the meeting of Iraqi and Iranian military officials in a so-called mixed military working group will help to settle issues related to the ceasefire. Both sides have complained of ceasefire violations but there have been no serious clashes, the United Nations has expressed concern about the proximity of Iranian and Iraqi forces along the front lines.

Red Cross suspends Sudan relief flights

NAIROBI (R) — The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has suspended flights to southern Sudan after the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) demanded more details of the operations, an ICRC spokeswoman said Saturday. The ICRC's fleet of planes, which has been flying food and medicines into the government-held towns of Wau and Aweil and the rebel-held settlement of Akon and Yirol, has been grounded since Tuesday, ICRC spokesman Veronique Zbinden said. "We hope the flights will resume again soon, but we don't know when," she said. After months of difficult negotiations, the Geneva-based ICRC finally began a simultaneous relief operation in government and rebel-held areas of southern Sudan last December. Zbinden said problems arose this week when the SPLA began demanding much more detailed information about each flight, including its exact time of departure and arrival and the names of those aboard. SPLA spokesman Deng Alor said by telephone from the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa the relief flights had only been temporarily interrupted until a new ICRC flight plan, submitted Friday, had been approved by SPLA commanders in the field.

Iran planning amnesty for exiles

NICOSIA (AP) — The Iranian government has prepared a plan to grant a general amnesty to encourage the nearly four million Iranian exiles living abroad to return home, Iranian Prime Minister Hussein Musavi has been quoted as saying. The official Iranian news agency said Musavi, speaking in the western Iranian city of Tabriz upon his return from the three-day visit to Turkey, said the plan would be submitted soon for approval to Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. Details of the proposed plan, which Musavi first announced while visiting Turkey, were not given. Musavi said in Ankara that the government will provide special facilities for the Iranians abroad to return home. He called on the self-exiled Iranians to preserve their links with the homeland. Last week, Khomeini's successor-elect Ayatollah Hussein Ali Montazeri said "firm steps" should be taken to attract the Iranians "who long to come to Iran but are scared."

Wife, U.N. chief appeal for Higgins' release

WASHINGTON (AP) — The wife of Marine Lieutenant-General William R. Higgins, speaking on the anniversary of the U.N. officer's abduction in Lebanon, joined U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar Friday in a plea for her husband's release.

"Today is a special day. It is an anniversary. A year is an awful long time for someone who is serving with the United Nations, serving for the cause of peace and freedom, to be deprived of his," Robin Higgins said.

Higgins, who has rarely commented publicly since her husband's abduction, spoke briefly with reporters after a speech by the secretary general.

Higgins, who commanded a 76-man U.N. observer group monitoring the Lebanon-Israel border, was taken hostage one year ago Friday.

In contrast to some other hostage families, Higgins said she would refrain from travelling to the region in an attempt to gain her husband's release.

"I have often thought it would be nice to be in the same time zone with him, be in the same climate with him," she said, offering a slight smile.

"My only aim is to bring him home, and I don't think that (by) my going there it could be accomplished," she added.

Higgins, who is a marine corps major and a public affairs officer at the Defence Department, said she tries to keep her spirits up, as well as those of their 18-year-old daughter.

"We try to pull together. We try to be as normal as possible. We try to maintain our privacy, and I think through that, it helps us to cope and it keeps our strength up," she said.

Children pay heavy price for prolonged Afghan war

By Sharon Herbaugh
Associated Press

KABUL — Inside the dingy walls of Indira Gandhi Children's Hospital, doctors and nurses are waging their own battle to save children from the savagery of civil war.

Artillery fire injured Meriya, a bright-eyed four-year-old, as Soviet and Afghan government troops attacked rebels trying to topple the government.

Although she suffered a few broken bones, at least she survived the attack three weeks ago.

Her mother said the artillery fire killed 10 of the 12 people living in their house in the village of Charikar, 70 kilometres north of Kabul. She seemed oblivious to the cockroaches crawling on the hospital walls behind her daughter's bed.

A rebel rocket attack

wounded six children in Kabul this week, and they were brought to this 300-bed hospital. Doctors were unable to save three of the children.

One of the survivors, a 12-year-old boy, had to have his right leg amputated. When doctors notified his parents, the boy's father, sobbing uncontrollably, cried, "Oh, let him die. Let him die. He's no good anymore."

Even before the civil war broke out in 1978, Afghanistan had the world's worst child-mortality rate, according to U.N. statistics.

More than one-third of Afghanistan's children die before the age of five.

Doctors and nurses working in a country where medical care is far below the standard of Western hospitals are struggling to keep the mortality rate from rising.

"We want to get away from politics as much as possible

here," said Dr. Abdul Salam Jalali, head of the 102-member medical staff at the hospital.

"There may be sons of Mujahideen commanders here. We don't ask. They are children. They are not directly involved in the war," he said.

The war, which has claimed more than one million lives, has brought a flood of patients to the hospital, built in 1972 by India and named after its late prime minister.

The hospital is always full — averaging 127 per cent capacity.

"Sometimes we put two or three patients in one bed. Sometimes we put them in a corridor or on the floor. But we never refuse a patient, and it's all completely free," Jalali told Western reporters.

The costs of the medicine and food is skyrocketing and has sent the hospital hopelessly over budget.

All medicine is imported and

transportation to the Afghan capital is difficult, because of fuel shortages and rebel attacks on convoys. The lack of supplies often forces doctors to reuse old bandages.

The war also makes it more difficult for Afghanistan's poor to afford nutritional food and distracts attention from child health care.

"They don't bother about these problems," Jalali said. "They just want to stay alive and when they finally do bring them to the hospital, it's often too late."

About 60 per cent of the patients at Indira Gandhi are boys.

"If the male survives, he will be able to make money for the family. The daughter is given away in marriage," the doctor said.

Jalali said it takes several months for the consequences of food shortages to filter down.

Malnutrition

"The effect of the food crisis which struck the capital last month should reach the hospital in about April," he said.

He said: "Malnutrition comes gradually, not all at once." Emaciated children, their resistance weakened by lack of food, suffer tuberculosis, meningitis and other diseases. "Malnutrition's our main problem. This has been going on for years, but now, it's worse," Jalali said.

In the final weeks of the Soviet troop withdrawal, which was completed in time to meet this week's Wednesday deadline, Kabul suffered critical food shortages. Vegetable and fruit stands around the city markets are full, but the prices for the produce have soared beyond the reach of the poor. In other parts of Afghanistan, the situation is worse.

Khagal Mohammad, who lives in the Laghman province east of Kabul, weighs about seven kilograms, the weight equivalent to that for a seven-month-old baby. Khagal is four.

Mayabim, a five-year-old from central Hazarajat, is worse. He weighs only nine kilograms, suffers from tuberculosis, meningitis and brain damage.

"We were too far away. It took us too long to get here," said his sobbing mother, Gulandam.

UNICEF, the Red Crescent and other charities are trying to help. Such cooperation is needed, but they say one further thing is needed before the situation can improve.

"Peace is a prerequisite, and peace for Afghanistan is not yet on the horizon," said UNICEF spokesman Vincent O'Reilly.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programmes
17:10 Football
18:00 News summary in Arabic
18:05 Local programme
18:25 Arabic series
19:15 Local programme
20:00 Programme review
20:05 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Programme review
21:40 Variety programme
23:00 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 La Boly Sinter
18:20 L'Ecole des Fous
18:30 News in French
19:00 A documentary
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties programme
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Perfect Strangers
21:10 Politics of Food
22:00 News in English
22:30 Murder She Wrote

PRAYER TIMES

06:55 Fajr
07:11 (Sunrise) Dhuha
11:49 Dhuhar
14:59 'Asr
16:38 Maghreb
18:46 'Isha

CHURCHES

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 625785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.
Terrasants Church Tel. 622366.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 625383.
Tel. 628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295.
Rainbow Congregation Tel. 822605.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
The country will remain under the effect of the unstable weather conditions. Therefore it will remain partly cloudy to cloudy with scattered rain accompanied by thunder and had some areas. Winds will be westerly moderate. In Aqaba, it will be partly

DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

cloudy with a chance for thundery showers. Winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./max. temp.
Amman 3 / 8
Aqaba 7 / 19
Deserts 1 / 12
Jordan Valley 8 / 16

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 10, Aqaba 30. Humidity readings: Amman 66 per cent, Aqaba 34 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. 'Awai Al Hawamdeh 777665
Dr. Yousef Rashid 896301
Dr. Munther Qasbi 898101
Dr. Adel 'Ammari 812148
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asema pharmacy 670555
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 626730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisan pharmacy 637660

IRBID:
Dr. Fawwaz Al Mousani (—)
Al Sharaa pharmacy 985238

ZARQA:
Dr. Musa Taha 'Odeh (—)
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 62380093
Blood Bank 773121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 65639091
Public Security Department
Repairs 664000 / 685111
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information
(directory assistance) 12
Overseas Calls 17
Central Amman Telephone
Exchange 623101
Abdullah Telephone Repair
Shop 661101
Jordan Television 773111

Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power
Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-52200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-52000

IRBID:
Dr. Fawwaz Al Mousani (—)
Al Sharaa pharmacy 985238

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalifeh Maternity, J. Amn. 644281/6
Al-Jahat Maternity, J. Amn. 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisan 664171/4
Shmeisan Hospital 669131
University Hospital 684945
Al-Mushtak Hospital 667277/9
The Islamic, Abdali 661273/7
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Army, Marfa 891611/5
Queen Alia Hospital 822401/0
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983232
Zarqa National Hospital (09)991071
Bot Sina Hospital (09)986732
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)773553
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)772275

Ibn Al Nafess Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

MARKET PRICES
Upper/lower price in fils per kg.
Apple 500 / 450
Banana 350 / 300
Beans (Mukammal) 300 / 250
Beans 800 / 700
Broad beans 450 / 350
Cabbage 200 / 150
Carrots 240 / 180
Cauliflower 180 / 120
Cucumbers 420 / 380
Dates 600 / 500
Eggplant 270 / 200
Garlic 240 / 180
Grapefruit 120 / 100
Lemon 250 / 200
Lettuce (per org) 160 / 120
Marrow (large) 400 / 300
Marrow (small) 600 / 500
Orange (local) 420 / 360
Orange (dry) 220 / 160
Onion (green) 240 / 180
Pepper (hot) 740 / 600
Pepper (sweet) 640 / 580
Pesto 140 / 100
Spinach 280 / 220
Mandarin 420 / 380

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:30 Cairo (RJ)
09:15 Jeddah (RJ)
09:45 Abu Dhabi, Dubai

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

ROYAL DECREE: A Royal Decree was issued Saturday approving an amendment to the law of the National Medical Institution (NMI). The decree establishes a board of trustees headed by the prime minister to direct the work of the NMI. The amendment also grants the head of NMI the authority of a minister in running the institution.

ROYAL DECREE: A Royal Decree was issued Saturday endorsing bylaws for the Muta University's students fund. According to the bylaws distinguished students will be offered grants and loans and will be offered employment on the campus. (Petra)

COST OF MEDICAL TREATMENT: The Council of Ministers Saturday announced an amendment to a set of rates for the cost of medical treatment at Health Ministry hospitals and health centres. The amendment stated that the beneficiaries will have to pay the cost of the medicines and drugs plus a 10 per cent of the cost. (Petra)

MINISTERS RECEIVE CHINESE ENVOY: Minister of Supply Fayez Tarawneh, Minister of Social Development Dr. Fawwaz Tougan and Public Security Department Director General Abdul Hadi Al Majali received separately Chinese Ambassador in Amman Zhang Zhen at the conclusion of his tour of duty in Jordan. (Petra)

JD 182,000 BUDGET FOR GUVS: The Amman branch of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) will have a fiscal budget of JD 182,000 for 1989 according to the branch's Director Fakhr Bilbeisi. He said last year his branch offered JD 94,000 in assistance to charitable societies within the Amman area and JD 105,000 is expected to be distributed during the current year. (Petra)

COURSE ON CAPITAL INVESTMENTS: The Industrial Development Bank's Jordan Institute of Management Saturday opened a training course for directors and senior officials in industrial and financial institutions in Jordan and Oman. The two-week course aims to orient the participants on capital investments and decisions to be taken in that field. (Petra)

MERCHANTS FINED: The military court has fined a number of Jordanian merchants for violating Ministry of Supply regulations. Ahmad Qablan, Atta Mohammad Yassin were fined JD 40 each, Mohammad Ghaleb was fined JD 30 and Bilal Tayseer Hassan was fined JD 20, while Raqi Rahab Al Hassan was fined JD 15. (Petra)

PEOPLE'S ARMY: The first batch of People's Army recruits for 1989 Saturday began training courses. Taking part in the courses are employees from the district of Jerash and Ajloun. (Petra)

SILVER JUBILEE PARK: The Municipality of Ramtha, in cooperation with the Jordan University of Science and Technology, began the creation of a 25-dunum public park in Ramtha known as the Silver Jubilee Park. (Petra)

BOOK EXHIBITION: An exhibition of Arabic books was opened Saturday at the Karak Community College. The seven-day exhibition includes 15,000 books on science, education, and culture. (Petra)

KUFRUNJH MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS: A total of 5,970 voters are eligible to take part in voting Sunday to elect a new municipal council for the town of Kufrunjh in Ajloun district. District Governor Mohammad Al Amad said that voting will start at seven in the morning and will continue until five in the evening. (Petra)

U.S. MIDEAST POLICY PROGRAMME: The American Cultural Centre in Amman will receive via satellite a special programme on "U.S. Middle East policy and the Arab-Israeli conflict" on Wednesday at 4:00 p.m. Participating from Washington will be Dr. William Quandt, former senior staff member for the Middle East on the National Security Council during the Carter administration, and Dr. Bernard Reich, professor of political science and international affairs and former chairman of the Department of Political Science at George Washington University. Both Quandt and Reich will exchange views via satellite with individuals in Bonn. (J.T.)

30 TRAINING COURSES FOR TEACHERS: Greater Amman Education Department held 30 training courses and seminars for new school supervisors, adult education staff, computer programmers and excellent students during the scholastic year 1987/1988, according to the department's annual report. The report said that the department last year recruited 1,410 teachers, who were distributed among the various department schools. The department's educational technology section personnel paid inspection visits to 76 secondary schools, 37 preparatory schools and 22 elementary schools. (J.T.)

Experts discuss importance of fertilizers in agriculture

AMMAN (Petra) — A three-day seminar entitled fertilizer trace elements opened at the University of Jordan Saturday.

Dr. Mahmoud Dweiri, dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, delivered the main speech to the opening session, underlining the importance of the agricultural sector as the main source of income for Jordan and the majority of the Arab World, and the essential element in their national economies.

"Nearly 41 per cent of the total workforce in the Arab World is involved in agriculture which is the source of living for 53 per cent of the Arab population," Dweiri noted.

Dweiri referred to the Arab World's growing dependence on fertilizers to increase its agricultural production and noted that Jordan's imports of fertilizers rose to 40,000 tonnes in 1986 up from 14,000 tonnes in 1974.

In addition, Jordan produces its own fertilizers using potash and phosphates as the main components, Dweiri added.

A representative of the Munich University in West Germany addressed the session referring to a fertilizer trace element project, which is being implemented in Egypt and said that the project will be expanded to include Jordan and will be executed in cooperation with the University of Jordan.

The seminar is organized by the University of Jordan's Faculty of Agriculture in cooperation with the Egyptian National Research Centre for agriculture and the West German Development Agency.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- An art exhibition by Paul and Emanuel Guiragoussian at Abdul Hamid Shomah Foundation.
- The Arab Contemporary Artists exhibition at Al Wasiti Gallery.
- An exhibition of models of the Jordanian plastic art, in which 22 Jordanian artists are participating, at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- An exhibition entitled "The Tübingen Atlas of the Middle East" at the Department of Geography, the University of Jordan.
- A photography exhibition entitled "Under Pure Skies" exhibiting 100 19th century photographs of the Middle East at the Yarmouk University.
- An exhibition of paintings of Jordan by Laz Marina Robertson at the Petra Bank Gallery.

LECTURE

- A lecture, in French, on Western fashion development in the twentieth century by Françoise Petrovitch at the French Cultural Centre — 6:00 p.m.

FILMS

- A film entitled "The Boy Who Never Was" (suitable for children) at the British Council — 4:00 p.m.
- A film entitled "Kramer vs. Kramer" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.



INFORMATION TALKS — Information Minister Hani Khasawneh and a delegation representing the information sector in Jordan Saturday held talks with UNESCO Director-General Frederico Mayor and a delegation accompanying him on information-related issues (Petra photo)

Dakhqan, World Bank team discuss water, sewerage projects in Jordan

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Water and sewerage projects in Jordan being executed by the Ministry of Water and Irrigation were discussed here Saturday at a meeting grouping Jordanian officials and a World Bank team.

Minister of Water and Irrigation Ahmad Dakhqan briefed the team on these projects and discussed prospects for cooperation with the World Bank in implementing such schemes in the Kingdom.

Dakhqan also talked about the ministry's drive to ensure sufficient water supplies to all citizens in various parts of the Kingdom and explained the ministry's water strategy which aims to help expand the agricultural lands in the country through the exploitation of water resources.

Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) Director Mu'taz Bilbeisi, who attended the meeting, spoke on the authority's programmes to supply water to different parts of the country and the current plans to complete the sewerage networks.

According to the WAJ's five-year plan, which ends in 1990, Bilbeisi said nearly 70 per cent of the country will be covered by sewerage networks.

The World Bank team, whose members are currently on a visit

here to determine the bank's contributions to the Kingdom's water and sewerage projects, later called at the Khirbet Al Samra wastewater treatment plant and inspected its operations.

Last November, Dakhqan told a seminar here that Jordan expected to require nearly 266 million cubic metres of water for annual consumption by the year 2005.

He said the Ministry of Water and Irrigation plans to intensify efforts to provide sufficient amounts through prospecting for new resources and through the construction of dams and drilling additional artesian wells.

Ministry to spend JD 423m. on overhauling educational system

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Education plans to spend a total of JD 423 million between 1989 and 1998 in the course of overhauling the educational system in the Kingdom, according to Dr. Mohammad Rashed, director of the ministry's Follow-up and Development Department.

Rashed was quoted by Sawt Al Shaab daily as saying that the ministry has opened two centres for advanced training of teachers, one in Irbid and the other in Amman and a third one will be set up in the southern city of Karak.

The centres aim at promoting

standards and proficiency of teachers at government schools to give a better performance, Rashed said. Each of the Amman and Irbid centres, he said, is now providing advanced training to 300 teachers.

Last month the Ministry of Education announced that it had worked out an integration programme to provide training and proper qualifications for teachers in implementation of resolutions adopted by the first educational conference held here in 1987.

It said that the programme entails providing training to three

different groups of teachers: those in the primary, the preparatory and the secondary levels at Jordanian schools.

Last year Minister of Education Thouqan Hindawi said that the Ministry of Education was embarking on the implementation of the conference's resolutions and recommendations in the 1988-1989 scholastic year.

The recommendations called for building schools, providing higher training for teachers, introducing changes in methods and curricula and providing schools with equipment for laboratories and other facilities.

King, Queen meet UNESCO chief

Continued from page 1

Council of Science and Technology (HCST).

Prime Minister Zaid Rifai also held talks with Mayor Saturday. Petra said topics covered dealt with cultural and educational cooperation and means for promoting educational services to the Palestinian people living under Israeli occupation.

Hindawi held a round of separate talks with Mayor on Jordan-UNESCO cooperation and the general situation in Palestinian education in the occupied territories. The minister drew attention to the inhuman and grave measures practised by the Israeli occupation authorities against educational institutions in the occupied territories, Petra said.

Minister of Culture and National Heritage Mohammad Hammouri and Mayor held a meeting Saturday and reviewed the ministry's programmes to publish books and periodicals, to promote theatre work and spread national culture and protect heritage. Hammouri briefed Mayor on Jordan's archaeological excavations and preservation of documents, and reviewed with him possibilities of Jordan-UNESCO cooperation in cultural, archaeological and library affairs, according to Petra.

The general conditions of universities and community colleges in Jordan were the topic of discussions at a meeting between Higher Education Minister Nassereddin Al Assad and the UNESCO director-general. Assad briefed Mayor on statistics related to these institutions and to Jordanian students studying abroad, Petra said.

Assad and Mayor reviewed Jordan's needs and possible areas where UNESCO could assist the Kingdom's educational institutions. Assad expressed hope that UNESCO would provide assistance to Jordan under provisions of a memorandum of understanding scheduled to be signed here Sunday between the U.N. agency and the Ministry of Education.

In a separate meeting, HCST Secretary-General Adnan Badran briefed Mayor on the programmes of

such as establishing a central bank for information and a system for storing information, as well as supplying the television and radio training centre with efficient cadres.

Khasawneh expressed Jordan's support for UNESCO and referred to Crown Prince Hassan's interest in the UNESCO and its distinguished efforts.

Mayor expressed support for Jordan's projects and UNESCO's keenness to consolidate bilateral relations. Later Saturday, Mayor said his meetings with King Hussein, Crown Prince Hassan, and others enabled him to get familiarised with Jordan's policies and its educational and cultural strategies.

He also lauded the interest King Hussein and Crown Prince Hassan show in the fields of environment and development. In an interview conducted by Petra, the UNESCO chief said that \$30,000 would be granted to Jordan to finance seminars by experts on factors causing damages to antiquities in Jordan and on establishing facilities to deal with urgent cases in archaeological sites.

On the situation in the occupied territories, he said that UNESCO wants to know what is taking place there. Noting that the educational situation deteriorated there following the closure of universities and schools, he said that UNESCO cannot tackle the educational problems alone because this constitutes a part of the whole problem.

Other international sides should participate in finding a comprehensive solution to all aspects of the problem, he said.

Upon his arrival here on a three-day visit earlier Friday, Mayor said the UNESCO programme to eradicate illiteracy in the Arab World by the year 2000 also aims to universalize primary education for all Arabs.

The programme, which will be launched at a press conference here Sunday, is aimed at promoting the Arab World's national potential and help develop Arab cultural and social programmes, maximising exploitation of Arab natural resources, he said. Information Minister Hani Khasawneh said and reviewed Jordan-UNESCO cooperation relations in the field of information and UNESCO said a number of projects

Queen Noor attends opening session

Seminar probes measures to serve senior citizens

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Saturday attended the opening session of a three-day seminar called to examine measures for the well being of senior citizens in Jordan.

The seminar, organised by the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) will address the Jordanian people's duty towards the old and means of ensuring their well being at home or at specialised homes for the old. Queen Noor heard speeches from GUVS President Abdullah Al Khatib, representatives from the University of Jordan's Sociology Department and Rox Ibn Zaid Al Azziz, from the University of Jordan.

The participants will review working papers entitled: international and national efforts and policies for the aged, by Abdullah Al Khatib; social and psychological situation of the aged and ways to meet their needs by Dr. Sari Naser; old people in primitive societies and throughout history by Dr. Amad Rabais; problems facing the aged in society by Mrs. Haifa Al Bashir; the role of the National Aid Fund in securing a better future for the aged.

by Mr. Khalil Fa'ouri and others. Her Majesty Queen Noor is a patron of many projects aimed at promoting the development of rural areas which include helping older people among other age groups and enhancing their income generating activities.

These projects, aimed mainly at the development of older women with traditional artistic skills, include the Al Noor project for the development of rural areas, training programme for women in community development and management, as well as the traditional handicrafts project, all of which are projects of Noor Al Hussein Foundation.

Jordan and Syria to start talks on expansion of joint merchant fleet

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Syria will open talks in Damascus Sunday on means of promoting the operations by their joint land and maritime transport companies, and will discuss the prospect of expanding the joint merchant fleet.

The discussions will be conducted through the general assemblies of the two companies to be co-chaired by the Ministers of Transport in Jordan and Syria.

Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khaled Al Haj Hassan will lead the Jordanian delegation to the meetings which, according to officials here, will also review the two companies' 1989 budgets.

On the eve of the meeting, Haj Hassan said that the two sides will look into the technical position of the Land Transport Company, and its vehicle maintenance operations.

The expansion of the joint merchant fleet is considered an essential step to boost the two countries' external trade, the minister noted.

He said that the two sides will discuss the prospect of acquiring a third merchant ship to join the company's fleet.

Haj Hassan said he will also hold talks with his Syrian counterpart to further boost transport links between Jordan and Syria in implementation of the joint Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee resolutions.

At its last meeting in Amman in August 1988, the Jordanian Syrian Maritime Company took a tentative decision to acquire 25 per cent of the capital of a cargo vessel which will cost \$2 million.

The vessel is to be jointly owned by the Arab Union Insurance Company, but the joint Jordanian-Syrian company will take

direct charge of the vessel to transport goods between the Arab region and north and north-western Europe, according to the announcement last August.

It said that the joint company will receive a certain percentage of the profits collected by the ship for transporting goods, but this should not be less than one third of the company's annual administrative and operational expenses or nearly one million Syrian pounds.

The new vessel, which has a net loading capacity of 5,500 tonnes, will be joining "Barada" and "Yarmouk", the other two vessels owned by the joint company, which was established in 1979.

Haj Hassan did not disclose whether the ship will be solely owned by the joint company or whether last year's tentative agreement will be endorsed.

ACC plans to reschedule settlement of Jordan Valley farmers' loans

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) plans to reschedule the settlement of loans due on farmers in the Jordan Valley whose crops were damaged by the recent wave of frost, and the farmers will be required to pay their debts in the next year, ACC Director General Sami Sunna announced in a newspaper interview published Saturday.

Sunna said it is hoped that the Jordan Valley farmers will now embark on planting summer vegetables such as tomatoes, melons and maize.

We are deeply concerned over the status of the Jordan Valley farmers whose lands produce most of the country's crops, Sunna noted.

He said loans due to these farmers account for 40 per cent of the total loans given to farmers in the whole country, or a sum of JD 12 million out of a JD 20 million given to all farmers in Jordan in the form of loans.

The ACC can reschedule the settlement of debts, but has no power to exempt farmers from settling their loans, Sunna said in a statement to Al Dustour daily newspaper.

He said that the government does not provide the ACC with

any funds, but has a share of JD 9 million in the corporation's capital.

Due to foreign funds, the ACC's current loans now stand at JD 19 million, and the ACC has to pay back the sum which it had loaned to Jordanian farmers, Sunna explained.

He said that the ACC pays JD 2 million annually in repayment of the debt or interest on the loan, and therefore, it is forced to collect the money from the farmers.

Sunna said that the ACC offers loans to farmers with interest at rates ranging from six to 8.5 per cent, depending on the size of the loan.

The loans, he said, are given after ACC teams operating at the corporation's 14 branches around the Kingdom carry out a survey of the farmers' projects and after ascertaining that the loans would be repaid.

But, he added, should some farmers fail to pay back their dues, a special committee examines the reasons behind such behaviour and if these are beyond the farmers' control, the loans are rescheduled.

He said that in the event a farmer has no reason for not

repaying his debts, legal procedures are taken against him; and if he still persists, the land will be confiscated in accordance with the ACC's regulations.

Since its establishment in 1960, Sunna said, the ACC has faced only six such cases in which the land had to be confiscated.

Also since its establishment, the ACC has provided JD 82 million in loans to farmers in Jordan who used the money to develop and reclaim land in the Jordan Valley and badia regions, drill artesian wells to pump out water for irrigation projects, to set up livestock and poultry farms or to plant fruit trees and purchase machinery as well as farming equipment.

At present, farmers in Jordan obtain loans from the ACC, the Agricultural Development Bank, the Jordan Farmers Association and others, and the corporation is striving to unify the work of these agencies to avoid dual loans on farmers, and reduce complications and difficulties in dealing with lending and repaying procedures, Sunna added.

He said that the ACC had found that some farmers had obtained loans totalling JD 6 million from two or three sources, making it more and more difficult for them to pay back.

Training course for English language teachers opens at Yarmouk University

IRBID (Petra) — A two-month training course for teachers of English language in Irbid Governorate opened at Yarmouk University's languages centre Saturday.

The course, which has been organised by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, the British Council and Yarmouk

University, is attended by 30 teachers working at secondary schools operated by the Ministry of Education.

The participants will hear lectures and do practical work using the latest methods in teaching the language.

Also at Yarmouk University, an exhibition of photographs was organised in cooperation with the

American Cultural Centre in Amman.

The five-day exhibition displays photographs depicting general scenes from the Middle East taken in the last century.

The 100 photographs also depict historical and cultural scenes from Jordan, Palestine, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Turkey and Algeria.

IRS REPRESENTATIVE AVAILABLE

A representative of the U.S. Internal Revenue Service will be available on the following dates to answer questions and provide information on U.S. income tax filing:

Sunday, February 26:

8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Individual sessions at the American Center, 3rd Circle.
1:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.: Individual sessions in the Consular Section, American Embassy.

Monday, February 27:

8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Individual sessions at the American Center, 3rd Circle.
7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.: Taxpayers' seminar at the American Center, 3rd Circle.

Tuesday, February 28:

8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Individual sessions at the American Center, 3rd Circle.
1:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.: Individual sessions in the Consular Section, American Embassy.

For further information please call 644371 ext. 233.

الجمعية الأردنية للحاسبات الالكترونية

JORDAN COMPUTER SOCIETY

The Jordan Computer Society invites members and those interested to a lecture on:

New Trends in Information Technology

Jean Jacques Duby

group director, Science & Technology, IBM (Europe)

ex-director, Centre National de Recherche Scientifique (France)

on Sunday 19/2/1989, 6:30 p.m.

at the lecture hall, Amman Chamber of Commerce, Shmeissani

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1973

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Sunday's Economic Pulse

Jordan stands to benefit from ACC

By Dr. Fahed Faneek

ON FEBRUARY 16, the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) was formally born as a regional entity that comprised some 80 million Arabs in four major and central Arab countries with a combined market of no less than \$80 billion a year of aggregate demand on goods and services.

The group includes the Arab country with the largest population (Egypt), the Arab country with the strongest army (Iraq), and the Arab country with the most dynamic private sector (Jordan).

The cooperation will be basically economical, at least at this stage, and may develop gradually later on to cover other vital areas such as politics, national security, and social affairs.

Jordan stands to benefit tremendously from its active membership in the ACC, which justifies the major role played by the Jordanian leadership in the creation, promotion and implementation of the project.

Foreign observers may argue that the economic benefits that may accrue to the members will be minor, because the four countries are not currently in the best of financial positions. Their markets, they point out, are limited, their productive bases are not big, and their economic and political systems differ widely. It is because of these very facts that the cooperation is needed, not as a simple addition of weaknesses, but as a creative

integration of factors which will start a growth dynamism of its own.

Jordan in particular will find a much larger market for its products. It is true that we already have extensive trading relations with all the other three partners, but these relations were always based on agreements that were valid for a year. Such short term concepts do not allow longer term planning, nor give rise to new investments.

The unemployed — skilled labourers, managers and talented professionals will find new job opportunities, especially in Iraq and Yemen. Jordanian contractors are well qualified to take part in the coming Iraqi construction boom.

Although Jordan is the smallest of the four partners, it has the most active private sector. The Jordanian private sector should be able to identify the vast opportunities that will present themselves within the ACC countries. One can safely assume that the Jordanian industry is relatively efficient, both technically and economically, and has huge idle capacity to activate and compete once the markets are opened and available.

Even the financial, and monetary problems and the external indebtedness crisis could be alleviated through the newly acquired bargaining power that Jordan now has as a member in an important and credible community.

The interaction among the four partners in the new community will not be confined to the governmental level. All categories of the society will be active, including politicians, businessmen, journalists, intellectuals, capitalists, labourers, educators and technicians.

All institutions will be active — political parties, universities, professional unions, chambers of commerce, industry and agriculture institutions, labour unions, and other financial and economic institutions.

The position of Jordan, its history, geography, social structure and circumstances and its choice as the capital of the ACC, will place on its shoulders the responsibility of acting as a catalyst and engine for further national cooperation.

One should not be overly impressed by the creation of ACC and its moderate objectives. Jordanian and Arab aspirations are much higher. But people are happy to have this window of opportunity opened, one that could be capitalised on and developed into a greater, more ambitious project. The painful contemporary Arab retreat that started in 1967 by the humiliating defeat at the hands of the Israeli aggressors, is giving way to a promising Arab recovery and resurrection which started with Amman summit conference in 1987, gained momentum by the Palestinian uprising in 1988, and may stay the course through the formation of ACC.

U.S. double standard

THE ARAB World, including the Palestinians struggling under Israeli occupation, never thought for a moment that a resolution by the U.N. Security Council by itself would bring them salvation or deliver them from evil. At best U.N. resolutions establish legitimate international norms for humanity to heed. Yet it is shocking to watch the U.S. government vetoing one resolution after the other on the situation in the Middle East, the latest on Friday when it vetoed a resolution condemning Israel's grave violations of human rights in the occupied territories.

It was only a week ago that the U.S. State Department issued its 1988 human rights report on the West Bank and Gaza Strip and found that the Israeli human rights record in the occupied territories was abominable. One would have thought that at least this time the U.S. delegation to the U.N. Security Council would have no trouble voting in support of the draft resolution on the situation in these territories on the strength of the U.S. report. After all the projected resolution did not go further than the U.S. report on the human rights situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and therefore it would have been natural and logical to win the U.S. vote this time at least.

The only redeeming factor in the latest U.N. Security Council encounter is the crystal clear revelation that Washington's allies do not see eye to eye with it on the Palestinian case. The words and votes of the Western European members of the Security Council suggest a deep rift between them and the U.S., not only on the Palestinian uprising but also on the fundamentals of the resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Israel is of course taking a great comfort from all this and the latest reports from Tel Aviv suggest that the Israeli leaders are even gloating about the widening rift between Europe and the U.S. on the Middle East issue. Meanwhile the latest signals from the new American administration should give the Arab World some food for thought and should propel the Arab World to positive reactions. The just announced Arab Cooperation Council is a clear signal to the U.S. as well as to the whole world that the Arab parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict will henceforth exercise more and more self-reliance in their pursuit of a just and permanent settlement. The more the U.S. alienates the Arab World with its unfortunate record at the U.N. on the Arab-Israeli conflict the more this will serve as a propeller for Arabs to achieve a higher level of self-reliance. In the final analysis, such Arab formations whether in the Maghreb, the Mashreq or the Gulf would be translated to political, military and economic Arab muscle that could hurt Israel more than the U.N. resolutions.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Commenting on the proclamation of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) in Baghdad on Thursday, Al Ra'i Arabic daily said that the masses in Egypt, North Yemen, Iraq and Jordan were overwhelmed with joy and have expressed their feelings through their manifestations in the streets. The Arab masses feel that the Baghdad proclamation was part of the serious endeavours on the part of their leaders to achieve national aspirations for the whole Arab World, the paper noted. It said that the Arab people believe that through economic integration, the Arabs can first form strong economic groupings, which are needed at present to counter the effects of other alliances, and safeguard Arab national interest. It said that apart from achieving a balance with other groupings, the Arab Cooperation Council will pave the ground for a greater measure of inter-Arab cooperation which is an essential element for unity. But the paper said that the miniature unity achieved in Baghdad is a source of threat to the enemies of the Arab World and, therefore, it would not be surprising to see these enemies expressing their concern and fear of such unity by launching hostile propaganda campaigns against the Arab Nation.

Writing in Al Ra'i daily, columnist Fahed Al Faneek says that the rejection by the Arab masses over the proclamation of the Arab Cooperation Council far exceeded the event itself not because the Arab masses did not understand this important step but because they saw in it an open door leading towards further accomplishments towards Arab unity. The writer says the Arab masses have all the right to think so because previous attempts on the part of a number of Arab countries towards achieving unity or merger ended in failure. The new step is a miniature unity among Arab states and could be considered as a little step or rather a seed which could be nurtured to grow up and become a fruitful tree; the writer adds. He says the economic unity between 80 million people living in the four Arab countries is indeed a new step towards a greater opportunity; and if the economic cooperation is promoted among the four members of the council, the way would be open for politicians, intellectuals, journalists, university professors and professionals of all kinds to meet and pave the ground for other forms of cooperation in their respective fields. Despite the fact that Jordan possesses the smallest area, he adds, the least volume of population and natural resources, its active people can and should take the initiative to stimulate such cohesion among the four countries.

Al Dstour daily described the Arab Cooperation Council as embodying the dreams of the Arab masses, and for this reason these masses went out into the streets in a show of joy and delight over the historic event. The paper said that the overwhelming positive reactions and the great welcome for this great step as expressed by people of all walks of life throughout the Arab World is a clear indication of the feelings of the Arab citizens and their aspirations for unity. The paper said that the proclamation of the Arab Cooperation Council was a fulfilment of part of the Arab masses' dream, and is seen as a new dawn for a bright future. As the Arabs continue to express their joy over the event, the Jordanian people take pride in the role played by King Hussein to make this dream come true, the paper noted. It said that the King's efforts coupled with those of the leaders of Egypt, North Yemen and Iraq continue to fill the hearts of Arab masses with hope that further steps on the road to unity will be achieved.

Israel: 'The status quo is a no-exit road'

By Anthony Lewis

"Mr. Prime Minister, to achieve order in the Casbah I have to act brutally toward people free of crime, too. I feel humiliated by this behaviour. The situation has become a catastrophe. It's breaking us and strengthening the Arabs."

— An Israeli soldier, when Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir visited troops in the West Bank city of Nablus last month.

NEW YORK — For 14 months now Israel has been trying to suppress the intifada, the Palestinian uprising, by force. Increasingly severe measures have exacted a heavy price on the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

At least 347 Palestinians have been killed; 20,000 have been wounded.

In 1988, 20,000 Palestinians were imprisoned — some after prosecution, more detained without trial on suspicion of participating in the uprising.

By military order, 157 Palestinian homes have been blown up and 54 sealed because someone in the family was suspected. Forty-five suspected leaders of the uprising have been deported.

Villages, refugee camps and even cities have been kept under

curfew for days and weeks at a time. Telephone lines have been cut here and there, and international calls blocked to and from all of the West Bank and Gaza.

The measures taken by Israel against the uprising are laid out in the current issue of The New Yorker in a piece by Amos Elon, the noted Israeli writer. It is a powerful account of the human cost of these 14 months.

But Israel has paid a higher price for its policy than have the Palestinians. That is the conclusion to which anyone reading Elon's somber article must come.

Israel now has three times as many soldiers on duty in the West Bank as the number needed to conquer it in 1967. They are doing policing that embitters many of them and, their officers fear, makes the army less ready for its real job of defending Israel's security.

The sense of law, so fundamental to the Jewish tradition, has been corrupted. Despite strong evidence of soldiers violating orders in the beating and killing of Palestinians, hardly any have been seriously penalised.

In the U.S. view, various measures have violated international law. The idea of collective punishment has insidiously taken over from individual guilt.

The financial cost to Israel is



high: at least \$2 billion so far, some say nearer \$3 billion. That includes direct military expenditure, the decline in tourism and the impact on the economy of increasing military reserve calls up to 60 days a year.

It all adds up to what the soldier told Shamir in Nablus: a catastrophe for Israel. That a soldier spoke as he did — and others, too — was a tribute to the democratic character of Israel. But the country's political leadership today is not up to the soldier's level of candour and honour in facing reality.

The coalition government's

policy remains based on force. But force has not stopped the uprising so far. What more brutal measures would be "effective"? Top military officers have been warning that it is not a military problem. The chief of staff, Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, said: "There is no such thing as eradicating the uprising, because in its essence it expresses the struggle of nationalism."

In short, the solution to the intifada can only be political. That means talking to the Palestinians. And that in turn means talking to the PLO. By now those who are not willfully blind know

that the Palestinians in the territories want no one but the PLO as their negotiator.

Israelis are coming to accept that difficult reality. A recent poll showed 54 per cent in favour of talking with the PLO. But the government spends its energy denying the reality. It says it will never talk with the PLO. Instead of encouraging the main-line Palestinian leadership's historic move toward a political settlement, it plays up the irreconcilable PLO extremist factions.

The logic of Shamir and his colleagues is to deny the political existence of the Palestinians. It is

the logic of endless conflict, bleeding Israel's substance.

A conservative American Jew, Benno Weiser, Varon, professor of religion at Boston University, has just made the point in a moving way.

He was long opposed to dealing with the PLO, and he still does not trust it. But he has come to believe that a Palestinian state, like a Jewish state, is a historical necessity.

"I can't help being a realist," Varon wrote. "The status quo intifada — is a no-exit road." — The New York Times.

West German SPD produces a new party programme

By Karl Zander

BONN (Dad) — The Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD) intends to produce in its future programme "conclusive answers to the challenges of today." SPD chairman Hans-Jochen Vogel said that the other political parties would have to take note of this competition. He was speaking at the presentation of the principles for the new party programme. The party will make decisions on this programme at a special party conference in Bremen at the end of the year. It will replace the Godesberg Programme which was drawn up in 1959 and has been valid for the party until now. It was originally planned to hold the party programme conference at the end of August, but Vogel wants to give the 900,000 party members more time to discuss the proposals.

Vogel has combined the principles of the future party programme under "ten headings." These show that the SPD, which regards itself as a "liberal national party of the left" will retain the basic values of the Godesberg Programme, but adjustments will be made to take into account the many changes in politics and life which have taken place over the 30 years since the Godesberg Programme was drawn up.

In 1959 nuclear energy seemed to the SPD to be a considerable step forward without any negative consequences. Thirty years ago the role of the developing countries in international affairs was not recognised fully; the European Community has since then made considerable progress in integration; new social movements have emerged and more and more women are unwilling to go along with the role in society traditionally allocated to them; then more and more the ambivalence between technical development and economic growth becomes obvious.

These developments will be taken into account in the new

SPD programme and assessed against the basic values of social democracy. The "modernisers" in the party around Hans-Jochen Vogel and his deputy, Oskar Lafontaine, have been able to push their ideas through. At points where it was not possible to reach an agreement with the "traditional left-wing of the party" a decision was taken by a majority vote in the programme committee — in line with Vogel's and Lafontaine's thinking. This decision was of vital importance on the question of the economy, where a minority recommended old socialist recipes.

"Freedom is for us the freedom of each person including people who think differently. Freedom for a few would be privilege."

The statements on the economy were linked to the Godesberg Programme with adjustments to meet the requirements of today. The central statement of "Competition as far as possible, planning as far as necessary" was literally adopted. Emphasis was given to the view that market forces and competition were indispensable. Where powers of the market are overtaxed, the state should pre-determine the framework and direct the economy against undesirable trends through regulations and prohibitions, nevertheless not directly intervening in private companies.

The statements of principle of the proposals show that the SPD is striving for a society in which every person can develop his personality in freedom. The proposals point out that "Freedom is for us the freedom of each person including people who think differently. Freedom for a few would be privilege."

Italy seeks asylum curbs

By Fabrizio Fontemaggi

ROME, Italy — The refugee crunch has come to Italy, traditionally host to new arrivals from Africa and the Middle East, and given rise to an increasingly vociferous anti-immigration lobby.

For many years Italy has served as the staging post for economic and political refugees from its former colonies in Africa, especially Ethiopians and Somalis in search of better prospects or Libyans at odds with the regime.

Most of those arriving in the country thought of Italy as a temporary shelter and looked to destinations farther afield, particularly Canada and the United States, for permanent settlement. For many years indeed Italy was an unattractive place for foreigners (and of course for Italians, who emigrated in hordes), with one of the lowest incomes per head in Western Europe and rampant unemployment.

The economic rebound in Western Europe has catapulted Italy into a new age of prosperity, with industries clamouring for manpower and plenty of money for everyone to spend. As a result, many of those refugees who planned to migrate to North America stayed back instead and made their homes in the country.

Although the numbers of refugees allowed to settle in Italy remain small, by Italian standards they have grown over the past few months (a total of about 3,000 over the past few years). But for the government's dogged adherence to the "geographical restriction" clause of the 1951 UN Refugee Convention, permitting only a trickle of non-Europeans, few experts doubt that the numbers would have grown dramatically.

And yet resettlement of re-

fugees in Italy has slowed down in response to political opposition as well as the pressure from neighbouring European countries, especially West Germany and France, to "plug loopholes" that allow entrants to filter through loosely controlled borders.

A rightist outcry over the influx of Third World (non-white) refugees has created its own backlash among the more reasonable politicians and media personalities. Renzo Arbore, a television newscaster, recently urged his audience to "be friendly to the refugee, give him a smile, show solidarity with him and be hospitable... a refugee needs this."

At least 10,000 refugees are believed to be registered with Italian and United Nations authorities, though thousands of others are believed to be living illegally. Only about a fourth of them are awaiting resettlement in the United States, Canada or other industrial countries.

The end of the war in the Gulf and the likelihood of a settlement in Afghanistan has reduced to a trickle the number of Iraqi, Iranian or Afghan refugees, but thousands of Middle Eastern men, women and children already are in Italy, waiting for

official word on their fate.

Most officials believe that only a few of them will ever be allowed to settle down in Italy. But political circles maintain that there will always be pressure on Italy to accept people in special cases. In one such incident recently, authorities accepted a group of 35 Afghan refugees "in orbit" after they were refused entry in other countries.

Once accepted, however, many refugees find that their troubles begin quite early. Most Italian employers, including some of the more prominent firms, are cognizant of the refugees' desperate plight. As a result, the jobs available to most refugees are either "unofficial," low-paid, menial ones, with little security of employment, or in the vast alternative economy encompassing drugs, prostitution, or cheap labour or dangerous jobs shunned by Italians. Many of them get caught in protection rackets while trying to make a living as hawkers or carmen.

Recent newspaper reports highlighted also the growing problem of homelessness among the refugees and their exploitation at the hands of landlords. Because of high rents bread earners in refugee-families have been forced to send their children away to live in cheaper areas. In some cases, children and their parents have been separated for years with tragic consequences for both.

Although there is mounting pressure for the reform of the law that delays resettlement of Third World refugees in Italy, few of the changes now envisaged are likely either to facilitate large-scale resettlement or a greater inflow of foreigners seeking respite from economic deprivation in their own countries. Academic File.



Cancer threatens the third world

With the rise in consumerism in the developing world, cancer has taken an increasing toll in recent years. The Third World needs to respond decisively to the threat, says a WHO expert.

By Jan Stjernsward

GENEVA — The developing world is fast catching up with the industrial world in showing growth in an unwelcome arena — cancer.

One out of every 10 deaths worldwide occur due to cancer. That's nearly 4.3 million people dying of cancer each year. Some six million new cases of cancer are diagnosed each year, more than half of those in developing countries. The mortality pattern

in developing countries is progressively approaching that in the industrialised world.

The most frequent forms of cancer are those of the stomach, lung, breast, colon/rectum, cervix, mouth/pharynx, oesophagus and liver, in that order. About three-quarters of the cervical cancers occur in developing countries, where it is the most common tumour. Incidence rates for cancer of the mouth, oesophagus, stomach, liver and cervix are higher in developing countries than in

developing ones. What is to be done?

Impact

Nothing would have a greater impact on the fight against cancer than being able to put into effect the enormous knowledge already gained in cancer control. About one-third of all cancers are potentially preventable.

But how can the conditions — early diagnosis and adequate routine therapies — be met? In most countries, cancer control activities lack overall coordination. Usually most of the resources are used for therapy, often at relatively high costs yet with limited effect, as the great majority of patients are incurable at time of diagnosis. Particular

emphasis could be given to the careful setting of priorities, since cost-effectiveness considerations play the greatest role when resources are severely limited.

Launching a cancer control activity can be expensive and can take many years to complete. The use of a formal procedure for evaluating potential activities and setting priorities can usually be accomplished in a few days at a tiny fraction of the cost of launching a programme, and may protect against the waste of large amounts of money and resources.

Of the eight most frequent tumours, five are more common in developing countries, three are preventable, screening or early diagnosis is effective in three, therapy is curative in three (but only if diagnosed at an early stage), and finally, pain relief and palliative care are needed for most. Worldwide, at least two-thirds of all cancer patients will die of their tumours.

Comfort

Active palliative care including pain relief could therefore be a high priority instead of a low one; there is a need for re-thinking there. Quality of life and comfort before death could be considerably improved by a relatively small reshuffling of resources.

The one-third of cancers which are potentially preventable could in fact be avoided by such measures as national tobacco control programmes.

In developing countries, for years to come, nationally efficient screening policies for specific cancers will be unrealistic. Therapy could therefore be linked with the search for earlier diagnosis. All too often, limited resources are spent on expensive curative therapies which have a marginal effect when applied to an ocean of incurable (and penniless) patients.

In most developing countries, the lack of resources and manpower (nurses, trained surgeons, radiotherapists and other specialists) makes it unrealistic to apply routine procedure on everyone. Instead, research has to be encouraged on therapeutic procedures that are appropriate in situations where there is minimal health care infrastructure.

Following its review of essential chemotherapeutic drugs for cancer, the World Health Organisation recently recommended that only 14 drugs were required for treating curable cancers.

Freedom from pain

Freedom from cancer pain similarly is possible with relatively simple, inexpensive methods. Two-thirds of all cancer patients today will die of their disease; for them pain relief is the only realistic and humane alternative for years to come. Yet few countries have any cancer pain relief policies or programmes.

WHO is encouraging countries in the Middle East and South Asia to develop their national cancer control policies and programmes and to integrate them into the existing health care system. Added to the U.N. agency's work has been the contribution of the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), based in Lyon, France.

The IARC's work on identifying risk factors for cancer in the environment, high-risk groups in different populations, describing the world epidemiological situation and disseminating information, is of particular relevance to the upwardly mobile developing countries which feel threatened by new disease patterns. — Academic File.

Cancer Control Priorities and strategies

Tumour	Primary Prevention	Early Diagnosis	Curative Therapy	Pain Relief
Stomach	+	+	+	+
Lung	+	+	+	+
Breast	+	+	+	+
Colon/rectum	+	+	+	+
Cervix	+	+	+	+
Mouth/pharynx	+	+	+	+
Oesophagus	+	+	+	+
Liver	+	+	+	+

A system in crisis is questioning itself

By Lee Mitgang
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — "A nation at risk," the landmark U.S. report that condemned mediocrity in America's schools nearly six years ago, shocked the nation into a flurry of reform.

But three new reports describing the sad state of U.S. students' abilities in mathematics might be even more cause for alarm.

On the surface, the reports released last week revealed little Americans haven't heard before.

Repeatedly during the last decade, international comparisons have shown U.S. students lagging behind other youngsters in math.

"A world of differences," a report by the privately operated educational testing service assessing 24,000 13-year-olds in six

countries, found South Koreans doing best among those tested from countries that also included Ireland, England, Canada and Spain. U.S. pupils scored last in the limited study.

A report by the national research council, "everybody counts: a report to the nation on the future of mathematics education," concluded that the nation desperately needs to agree on how math should be taught. But it noted that compared with Japan or South Korea, math reform has consistently gotten nowhere in the United States largely because its decentralized national school structure makes national decision-making difficult.

"The top-down systems have beaten us hands down," the report concluded.

Survey

A survey conducted by the University of Michigan compared math achievement levels of first and fifth-graders in the Chicago area and Beijing. It found American youngsters performing significantly worse than their Chinese counterparts.

That survey also found that the American parents would be satisfied if their children scored a 70 on a math test, while Chinese children had to score in the 90s to please their parents.

But the larger significance of these latest reports lies in two other findings: students scoring highest did the most homework and watched the least television.

Koreans ranked first in math homework, with 45 per cent doing at least one to two hours a week. U.S. students ranked last, with 28 per cent doing that amount.

Some U.S. educators wonder whether these math scores demonstrate that American youngsters have grown soft on hard work.

"I think it's a cultural phenomenon in this country," said Scott Thomson, executive director of the national association of secondary school principals. "We don't recognize the importance of studying math or studying tough subjects."

"The countries that are most successful, like Japan or Korea, say right up front that it takes hard work and long hours and grinding it out. Americans as a nation tend to be impatient with everything, including studying."

Put bluntly: with math, as with no other subject, there's simply no faking it. The answer's right or wrong. You either took the time at home to memorize and drill and practice, or you didn't.

But equally important, homework and a wholesome environment are inseparable.



An Egyptian worker brushes dust off one of five life-sized statues discovered in the Pharaonic ruins of Luxor Temple in

Upper Egypt three weeks ago. Experts said it could be the greatest archaeological find since the turn of the century.

A missing link to ancient history?

By Sara El-Gamal
Reuters

LUXOR — Scientists have begun trying to solve the riddles posed by five freshly unearthed Pharaonic statues at Luxor temple, described as one of Egypt's greatest archaeological finds this century.

The life-size statues of kings, a god and goddesses, probably carved more than 3,000 years ago and unearthed over the last three weeks, have posed new questions for experts in the dusty science of Egyptology.

"We don't know what they're doing there or why," said Tawfik, head of the Egyptian Antiquities Organisation, said in an interview last week.

Experts said the black stone carvings of two seated women and three men were the greatest discovery of their kind since 3,000 amulet-sized statues were dug up

at the nearby temple of Karnak in 1902.

"These ones are much larger and of life size and that means that there will be something really great buried under there," said Egyptian Culture Minister Farouk Hosni.

"We have found three, four, five statues. That means there's a sixth, a seventh, an eighth," he told reporters as workmen brushed dirt off the statues.

Hosni said the accidental discovery — made as scientists investigated subsoil water endangering two nearby columns — could be the greatest of its kind this century.

Experts said they would keep on digging at the Luxor temple until they were sure they had found the whole cache.

Three weeks ago scientists struck solid rock when they began taking soil samples from the court to see what was needed to pre-

vent further damage.

"It was purely by chance," said Hishmat Adee, in charge of documentation and who was present at the time of the initial discovery. "We had no idea anything was buried in the temple."

"But they were little statues. Here they are of normal size and we expect to find many more buried here," Hosni said. "They should complete the missing link in ancient history."

Sayed Tawfik speculated that the 1.5 and two-metre statues might have been buried by priests fearing their destruction by invaders.

Egyptologist Sayed Haggag said they might have been hidden to prevent Amenhotep's son Akhnaton getting hold of them when he replaced an old religion with a new form of sun worship.

According to history books, Akhnaton hacked away images

and names of deities in Luxor temple, built on an old site of sun god Amoun worship.

"These are only assumptions. We will not know what this cache is doing here until we excavate the last statue," Haggag said.

Most Egyptologists thought the statues dated back to the 18th dynasty between 1570 and 1305 B.C. but some believed they belonged to a much later period. After almost a day of excavation workmen struggle with an unidentified statue within the pit.

Above them loomed the sky goddess Hathor with cow horns and a sun disc on her head covered in mud to remove salt staining her black body.

Amenhotep and his favourite wife Tiye stood in the pit beside Horamheb, a general under Akhnaton and later a king.

The figures are destined to go on view at the Luxor museum.

Waste management — ahead of time

By Kurt Pleyer

LEVERKUSEN (DaD) — German chemical works are ahead of their time. They are currently implementing environmental protection regulations which, according to political decisions, will not come into effect for seven years. Major companies such as Bayer, Hoechst and BASF allocate every fifth Deutschmark earmarked for investment for protection of the earth, air and water. This year they have provided DM5 billion for this purpose.

The latest example of this concern is an incineration plant, built

at a cost of DM100 million, which Bayer boss Hermann J. Strenger set in operation in Leverkusen at the press of a button. It not only considerably reduces the volume of waste but makes incineration at sea of chlorinated hydrocarbons superfluous. This has caused enormous protest from environmental protection organisations over the past few years.

The new plant is a huge waste management centre. At a temperature of 1,000 degrees 20,000 tons of concentrated sewage and 90,000 tons of sludge can be disposed of annually without harm to the environment. Sewage

is almost completely disposed of any incineration. The residual gas can be used as energy. Only 20,000 tons of harmless ash remain from incineration of the 90,000 tons of sludge. The ash is deposited in the plant's own disposal site.

Various techniques are available for waste disposal. Bayer engineers decided in favour of a 50-metre tall, computer-controlled oven. The incineration air is directed over eight tiers to the sludge. Temperature and air supply are automatically controlled, which ensures that the waste is completely incinerated. An ex-

pert said that 85 per cent of the heat generated by this process was fed back into the plant. By comparison only 35 per cent of public power supply was recycled.

The North Sea can now literally breathe again. The oxygen content is increasing and there is a decrease in harmful filth along the Federal Republic's coast-line. German factories have said they will no longer pour sulphurised liquids into the seas from 1991 onwards. British and French chemical works have given themselves a longer transitional period.



Some U.S. educators wonder whether these math scores demonstrate that American youngsters have grown soft on hard work.

"I think it's a cultural phenomenon in this country," said Scott Thomson, executive director of the national association of secondary school principals. "We don't recognize the importance of studying math or studying tough subjects."

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OPEC gradually slows oil production

NEW YORK (Agencies) — OPEC pumped an estimated 19.33 million barrels of oil per day (b/d) in the first two weeks of February, a drop from January levels as members adapted to new quotas, oil analysts said Friday.

OPEC pumped 19.55 million b/d last month, above the official ceiling adopted last November of 18.5 million b/d for the first half of 1989.

Based on the early estimates, analysts predict the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries' (OPEC's) total February output could decline to an average of 19.0 million b/d.

"There is a gradual slowdown in production," said Vahan Zanoian, managing director of the Petroleum Finance Co. "There is some (production) discipline."

Output by the 13-member group has declined steadily since December, when the group pumped a seven-year high of 22.76 million b/d, according to a Reuters survey.

Indonesian Oil Minister Ginanjar Kartasasmita said Thursday OPEC's January output was below 19 million b/d. He gave no estimate for the first half of February.

The United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia have lowered their production so far this month, while output in Iran and Kuwait rose, analysts said. Pro-

duction in Ecuador, Iraq and Nigeria was unchanged.

Analysts said OPEC lowered its output due to increased production discipline and declining world demand.

"My sense is that the buyers are buying a little less because of (declining) seasonal demand, and that will probably drop further," said Dillard Spriggs, president of Petroleum Analysis Ltd.

"Oil prices are holding things together," said a supply analyst at a major U.S. oil company. "The United Arab Emirates, for instance, is more willing to reduce production when prices are firm."

The United Arab Emirates showed the largest drop, with production declining to 1.3 million b/d in the first half of February from 1.41 million b/d in January.

Saudi Arabia's output fell about 20,000 b/d to 4.67 million b/d but is expected to average near the kingdom's quota of 4.524 million b/d for the entire month, analysts said.

Iran and possibly Kuwait raised output during the first half of February. Iran's estimated output rose about 40,000 b/d to 2.68

million b/d, while Kuwait's output may have jumped about 20,000 b/d to 1.2 million b/d, analysts said.

Analysts view Iran's output as unpredictable. "Iran operates with a mercantile strategy, locking in others to the lowest production level, then squeezing every extra nickel out of the deal without ruining the deal," said the supply analyst.

Worldwide oil demand is expected to drop on a seasonal basis by March, putting more pressure on OPEC to maintain production and price discipline, analysts said.

While oil prices enjoy the fruits of the lower output March energy futures traded up 20 cents at \$18.53 a barrel in New York Friday afternoon — analysts were not sure how long the reduced supply will last.

"If prices are firm, there is a temptation to cheat on quotas," said Petroleum Finance Co's Zanoian. "If prices are not firm, there is a temptation to cheat by trying to make up in volume what is lost on lower prices."

Analysts said the key measure of OPEC's success will come in the second quarter, when world oil demand historically drops.

British North Sea oil output seen at 7-year low

Meanwhile, accidents on oil installations have cut Britain's North Sea crude output to its

lowest level since late 1981, according to London stockbroker James Capel and Co.

Its preliminary estimate of 1.8 million b/d in January published Friday compares with 2.04 million b/d last December and 2.56 million b/d a year earlier.

Most output from six oil fields was still shut after an explosion and fire destroyed Occidental Petroleum Corp's Piper Alpha platform last July, killing 167 men.

Three other fields closed during January after a storage tanker broke from its moorings and the Brent Delta platform shut for the whole month after a gas leak.

At its worst, some 550,000 b/d or up to 22 per cent of British oil output was lost, according to an energy department spokesman. But the amount of lost production is now 18 or 19 per cent as some fields slowly resume operations, he said.

The spokesman said North Sea output would continue to be depressed this year by the effect of the Piper Alpha and other accidents. That could mean 95 to 115 tonnes this year versus more than 115 million tonnes last year.

But the government has revised upwards its projections for future output due to new field discoveries and techniques which make it cheaper to extract oil from small, marginal fields.

For instance, the forecast for 1992 of 85 to 115 million tonnes

Iran's future leader labels foreign borrowing 'enslaving'

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iran's designated future leader, Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri, has said the private sector, rather than foreign money, should spearhead the country's post-war reconstruction.

"If we start thinking about foreign borrowing it would mean selling the country to foreigners," the Iranian news agency IRNA, monitored in Nicosia, quoted him as saying in a speech to bazaar merchants.

"Those who have rushed to us to offer so-called help for reconstruction — where were they during the war and hardships? they would not help us one bit," he noted.

Iranian leaders say they will use foreign help to repair billions of dollars of damage caused by eight years of war with Iraq, but they have differed on whether Iran should also seek foreign credits.

Montazeri, 66, chosen in 1985 to succeed Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini as Iran's supreme leader, said instead of borrowing the government should give a free hand to the private sector to revive trade and industry.

"The government cannot be a good businessman... it is committing a big mistake by taking over trade affairs which brings a lot of harm to the society," he said.

Government officials, he said, should learn from Soviet authorities "who after 70 years have come to the conclusion that the nationalisation of trade affairs was the cause of economic backwardness."

Montazeri said Iran had the resources and population to build an independent economy, but the government must eliminate cumbersome bureaucracy which encouraged economic corruption.

He added that the country could not effectively fight social corruption while three to four million people were out of work, inflation was growing and goods

were in short supply.

Turkey, Iran agree to increase trade volume

Meanwhile, Turkey and Iran agreed to increase their trade volume to \$2 billion this year in a protocol signed Friday at the end of a joint economic commission meeting.

State Minister Yusuf Ozal told a news conference in Ankara that Turkey will export chemical and industrial goods worth \$1 billion to Iran in 1989. And in return, he said Turkey will buy five million tons of oil from Iran.

Ozal said the two sides also decided to start preliminary studies to set up a power grid connection between Turkey and Iran.

Iranian Heavy Industry Minis-

ter Behzat Nabavi said the two countries were more likely to reach the trade target figure this year as the Gulf war was over.

The volume of trade between the two countries has declined steadily over the past three years from \$2.9 billion in 1985 to \$1 billion in the first 11 months of last year.

Premier Turgut Ozal, who attended the signing ceremony with his Iranian counterpart Hussein Musavi, told reporters that Iran agreed in principle to give Turkish construction companies a share of contracts for war reconstruction.

The premier said the sides also agreed to study a project to carry Iranian natural gas to the Turkish Mediterranean coast with a pipeline for the use of joint industrial installations.

U.S. '88 trade deficit shrinks to \$137 billion

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. trade deficit in 1988 shrank to \$137.34 billion, its lowest level in three years, as American exports increased at three times the rate of import growth, the government said Friday.

For December alone, the deficit narrowed slightly to \$11.89 billion from \$12.22 billion in November as exports jumped 6.0 per cent to a monthly record of \$29.19 billion, outpacing a 3.3 per cent rise in imports to \$41.09 billion, also a record.

The export boom appeared to level off toward the end of 1988, while foreign goods continued pouring into the country at a brisk pace, leading some economists to conclude that the strides the country made in its trade balance have stalled.

The December deficit was in line with the expectations of Wall Street economists and therefore had no more than a momentary impact on financial markets, which closely follow the government's monthly trade reports.

The U.S. trade deficit, which reached a record \$170.32 billion in 1987, has prompted heated debates over trade policy between Congress and the Reagan administration and remains a major problem for President Bush.

The latest report, however, prompted an upbeat reaction from White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater.

"It's good news," Fitzwater told reporters in St. Louis, where Bush was speaking. "It does show steady improvement, a trend of improvement."

Much of last year's 19 per cent deficit reduction from 1987 came in U.S. trade with Western Europe, where the gap shrank to \$17.04 billion from \$30.22 billion. Trade balance improvements with U.S. trading partners in Asia were far more modest. The deficit with Japan, the largest of any country, fell to \$55.44 billion from \$59.83 billion, and the gap with newly industrialised countries in Asia fell to \$31.62 billion from \$37.74 billion.

Reuters announces 20.5% pre-tax profit increase

LONDON (R) — The international news and information agency Reuters Holdings PLC has said its pre-tax profits rose by 20.5 per cent in 1988.

Reuters managing director Glen Renfrew said in a statement accompanying the company's annual results he expected a recent rationalisation programme and several new products to aid the group's performance in the current year.

"Gross new orders for Reuters products remain strong and, although cancellations are still heavy, the net new order rate is high enough to generate continued good growth," he said.

Reuters said pre-tax profits rose 20.5 per cent to £215.4 million (\$376 million) in the year ending Dec. 31, 1988. The pre-tax profit margin had increased to 21.5 per cent from 20.6 per cent.

Renfrew said: "Barring additional major setbacks for financial markets or substantial further strengthening of sterling, Reuters should continue to do well."

The company said gross new orders for core information and dealing products remained near record levels in 1988 and large numbers of new subscribers were signed up. But cancellations were also heavy.

Net new orders remained below the peaks of 1987 throughout the year, but high enough to produce good revenue growth, the company said, without giving figures.

"Trading conditions were worst in major financial centres where growth had been most hectic," Renfrew said in the statement.

"However, we enjoyed strong growth in the emerging industrial powers of the Western Pacific and in some of the national markets of continental Europe," he noted.

Reuters said it had rationalised its management structure and attacked the costs of marketing, development, editorial and overheads. The group's structure is now based on three geographical areas instead of four and several regional administrations have been eliminated.

Five product groups have been created to handle marketing and development.

Revenue grew in 1988 by 15.7 per cent to £1 billion (\$1.76 billion).

Growth was restrained by the hardening of sterling against all Reuters major trading currencies except the yen, by cancellation of subscription services and by a decline in the sales of trading room systems by Reuters subsidiary Rich Inc. from the heights reached in 1987. The company gave no detailed figures.

Reuters said the annual growth rate of technical development spending was cut to 15.7 per cent in 1988 from 105.7 per cent in 1987 but it still amounted to \$55.3 million (\$97.3 million).

Capital spending rose to £229.1 million (\$403.2 million) from £151.5 million (\$266.6 million) in 1987.

Renfrew told a news conference four major new products and benefits from a recent rationalisation programme will help growth in 1989.

"I think the big difference this year is that we have four, at least four, major new products coming on at once — more than we've ever had at once," he said.

Renfrew said new products this year include a general upgrading of real time information products, a service called "Dealing 2000" to generate more fees from foreign exchange transactions, a trading room system known as "Triarch 2000" and expansion in historical information services.

"I think we're very well equipped to grow," he said.

Renfrew declined comment when asked if Reuters' "A" shareholders were negotiating an agreement which would enable them to sell some or all of their stock.

Reuters' "A" shareholders, who have not sold any stock since the company was floated publicly in 1984, consist of major newspaper and media interests. The shares are held mainly by the Press Association News Agency of Britain, the Australian Associated Press, and interests linked to publishers Rupert Murdoch, Robert Maxwell, Lord Rothermere, Lord Stevens, Lord Lush, Conrad Black, Roland "Tiny" Rowland and the Guardian and the Financial Times newspapers.

Third World warns EC about dangers of structural adjustment

BRAZZAVILLE (R) — Third World nations Friday urged the European Community (EC) to avoid tying a new trade and aid treaty to programmes that might damage developing economies.

"They made their plea towards the end of a two-day ministerial meeting between the 66-member group of African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) nations and the EC held to discuss replacing the current five-year Lome Convention, which is worth about \$9.5 billion and which expires in 1990."

The ACP argued that existing World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) programmes, which help finance imports by cutting public spending, were too concerned with figures and have in the past had disastrous social side-effects.

"The IMF asks us to sack teachers, health workers and other people essential to our well-being in total disregard for the quality of life of our people. We want any EC programme to help health, education and welfare programmes," an ACP delegate said.

Some EC donors say Lome aid could be better spent if it were focused on individual structural adjustment schemes, but the ACP fears the EC will coordinate closely with the World Bank and IMF and will devise programmes with conditions similar to those of the Washington-based agencies.

"We will discuss conditionality but will not accept conditions the same as offered by the World Bank and the IMF," one ACP diplomat said.

"That's too much of a black and white picture. We have to coordinate with the IMF and World Bank to be able to produce a different but coherent programme. It does not mean we'll be copying theirs," Junior Dutch Foreign Minister Berend-Jan Baron van Voorst tot Voorst said.

Although the Community has said it will devise original programmes to take the social aspect into account, development experts have said it does not have the financial or technical ability to compete with the two Washington-based institutions, something some EC diplomats realise.

"To be honest, I'd be astonished if the terms of our programmes were much laxer than

those of the IMF and World Bank. The Community isn't quite sure what it wants," said one senior EC diplomat, who declined to be named.

"At the end of the day the litmus test is the likely impact on the social dimension. Our people have had enough social pain for a long time," said Jamaica's EC Ambassador Leslie Wilson.

ACP states say there is a link between low commodity prices and structural adjustment programmes to help countries which cannot pay their debts and have said the Community should pay more for their commodities.

Earlier ACP officials reacted with mixed feelings to news that EC ministers would discuss Third World debt at two meetings set for March and June.

Hungary opens E. Europe's first Western-style banking school

BUDAPEST (R) — Hungary Friday opened Eastern Europe's first school of Western-style banking, the latest sign of its determination to push towards a free economy.

Prime Minister Miklos Nemeth told the opening ceremony of the school, a joint venture with a French organisation, that what he called "distorted ideology" had taken Hungary away from the main lines of development in Europe.

"We would now like to come back to the main road," he said. Hungary's banking system must be reevaluated and entrepreneurship should no longer be viewed with suspicion.

He hoped the centre would become a focus of banker training in Eastern Europe, and later of Central Europe.

The International Training Centre for Bankers Ltd. is a joint venture of 28 Hungarian financial groups and the Paris-based Centre International de Formation de la Profession Bancaire.

Representing the French partner, Jean Montgaillard said the Hungarian and French banking systems were part of the same family but had been "separated" for some time.

"Now I have the feeling we are meeting again," he said. The centre is another step towards Hungary's desire to

readopt a market economy with tools and instruments usually regarded as capitalist.

Hungarian, Italian and U.S. businessmen founded a business

school last November to train Hungarians as Western-style managers. A stock exchange, suppressed after the communist takeover 40 years ago, reopened in January.

British inflation rises to highest level in six years

LONDON (R) — British inflation hit a six-year high last month despite government efforts to curb consumer spending and cool a booming economy.

The official retail price index, one of the main indicators of the

economy, showed the annual inflation rate rising sharply to 7.5 per cent in January from 6.8 per cent in December. It was the highest annual rate since September, 1982.

Inflation, the government's declared number one economic enemy, has spiralled from 3.3 per cent a year ago, driven in part by interest rates rises. Bank base rates have climbed in nine steps from 7.5 per cent in June to 13 per cent.

Employment Secretary Norman Fowler blamed the jump on higher home loan mortgage rates, reflecting rises in bank rates, and higher motor insurance premiums, food costs and rail fares.

"The government remains determined to bring inflation down and that is indicated by the chancellor's action in raising interest rates... however, one consequence of this is that inflation has risen in the short term," he said in a statement.

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Swiss franc	344.5	348.2	Belgian franc (to 10)	136.4

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14-year-old shooting star...

CHICAGO (AP) — At 6-foot-10 (2.06 meters) and 32 points a game, Rashard Griffith is drawing plenty of attention from college basketball coaches. But they will have to wait a while to get him — he's only 14 years old. College usually starts at age 18

for U.S. students. Griffith is described by his coach at Marcus Garvey elementary school as one of the most extraordinary prospects since National Basketball Association legend Wilt Chamberlain. "I thought I was going to see a

young kid slightly clumsy with good skills to work with. But when I saw shocked me," said Indiana assistant coach Joby Wright. "He has great vision, agility, quickness, hands and court awareness. He can dominate right now on the high school level."

Garvey coach Bernie Parrot says the future looks bright for Griffith.

"If he keeps his head together, keeps his books up (studies diligently) — and he's doing a fine job of that now — he should turn out to be fine athlete," Parrot said. "The sky's the limit if he stays healthy."

Parrot said he has talked to coaches who observed Chamberlain at the same age, and say Griffith is more advanced. Predictions are that the boy could reach 7-5 (2.25 metres).

Chamberlain was 6-11 (2.10 metres) when he enrolled in Philadelphia's Overbrook high school in 1951 and he wrote in "Wilt," his autobiography that "I had college and pro scouts looking at me by the time I was in the ninth grade."

At least 50 colleges have sent "profile charts" for Griffith to fill out so they can monitor his progress in the next two or three years.

But Griffith already is tiring of the fuss.

"I didn't know what to expect at first," Griffith said. "My coach told me it would be like this and to be prepared. But it's starting to get on my nerves when somebody calls you up and tells you why you should go to their high school."

"Some have even been rude to my mother and I don't appreciate that at all."

Mrs. Griffith, a Chicago transit authority bus driver, insists her son take his schoolwork as seriously as basketball.

Honeyghan faces fine, ban after drugs tests

LAS VEGAS (AP) — British welterweight Lloyd Honeyghan faces a possible fine and suspension after testing positive for a painkilling drug, a Nevada boxing official said Friday.

Honeyghan tested positive for the drug after losing his World Boxing Council welterweight title to Marlon Starling in an eighth-round knockout on Feb. 4.

"We're going to be tough with this one and we're going to make sure it's not done again in this state," said Dr. Elias Ghanem, chairman of the Nevada State Athletic Commission.

Ghanem said Honeyghan and his handlers were specifically warned before the fight that they must clear any medications they planned to use with the commission, but they secretly injected lidocaine into the boxer.

Ghanem said the commission had clearly stated its position about lidocaine when it fined junior middleweight Robert Hines and super middleweight James Kinchen \$750 for using the substance in fights held in Las Vegas in November.

"We said it loud and clear last time that this won't be tolerated any more," said Ghanem. "Then we told them right before they fight, if they're going to take any medicine or injections they have to make sure the commission approves of it ahead of time."

Ghanem, a medical doctor, said lidocaine is a painkilling agent similar to novocaine given patients in a dentist's office. It is commonly used in injections for relief of tennis elbow or bursitis.

Wimbledon, Liverpool claw back

LONDON (R) — Reigning F.A. Cup champions Wimbledon and beaten finalists Liverpool flirted with fifth round defeat Saturday before turning up the power to snuff out the ambitions of Grimsby and Hull.

Half-time inspired visions of glory for the two northeastern clubs with Grimsby, from the lower reaches of the Fourth Division, leading Wimbledon 1-0 and second division Hull 2-1 ahead against Liverpool.

But the dreams lasted little longer than the interval. The two matches had barely restarted before the big-name clubs took control to record wins by 2-1 and 3-2 respectively.

John Aldridge produced a double strike for Liverpool in the space of 60 seconds, equalising with a header from a cross by Peter Beardsley in the 52nd minute and then putting the visitors in front when he converted a header from Steve McMahon for a final score of 3-2.

A defensive blunder by Grims-

by let John Fashanu past to equalise in the 57th minute and Terry Phelan dived to head home a cross from Dennis Wise three minutes later. Wise himself made it 3-1 with an injury time goal. Manchester United were given a harder time than expected at second division Bournemouth, who knocked them out of the cup in 1984.

Mark Hughes put United ahead in the 53rd minute with his 15th goal of the season but Trevor Aylott equalised 19 minutes later and the two sides will replay at Old Trafford Wednesday to decide who goes into next month's quarter-finals.

Hull's home tie at least gave their star striker Keith Edwards, the leading scorer in all competitions among current players, the

chance to equal his personal record of scoring in eight successive games.

Edwards gave Hull a 2-1 lead one minute before the interval when he seized on a header from Billy Whitehurst, author of the side's first goal in the 34th minute after John Barnes had scored for Liverpool.

Favourites Liverpool, already missing striker Ian Rush because of a knee injury, also lost Scottish international defender Gary Gillespie just 10 minutes into the match when he was hurt in a clash with Andy Payton.

West Ham survived to reach the quarter-finals despite being reduced to 10 men for the whole of the second half at Charlton. Midfielder Mark Ward was sent off in the 44th minute for elbowing Colin Pates in the face.

But 19-year-old Stuart Slater, who underwent knee surgery only three weeks ago, took advantage of a hesitant Charlton defence to

trickle the ball past goalkeeper Bob Bolder in the 53rd minute and maintain West Ham's record of eight wins in eight F.A. Cup meetings with their fellow-Londoners.

Sheffield United were left cursing an own goal by Steve Thompson after Norwich beat them 3-2 to reach the quarter-finals for the first time in six years.

Thompson's error gave Norwich an early lead and though Brian Deane equalised, Malcolm Allen slotted home a second-half penalty to put the home side ahead again. Tony Agans made it 2-2 one minute later but Dale Gordon scored a close-range winner for Norwich nine minutes before the final whistle.

With their major rivals occupied with the cup — Nottingham Forest and Watford play their fifth round tie Sunday — Arsenal missed a clear chance to double their First Division lead to six points.

NBA Roundup

NEW YORK (AP) — Here's a roundup of National Basketball Association games Friday night.

Hawks 488, Cavaliers 100 ATLANTA (AP) — Moses Malone scored 11 of his 21 points in the final period, including four key free throws and a dunk in the final 1:27, powering the Atlanta Hawks to a 108-100 victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers.

The Hawks became the first team to beat Cleveland three times this season, despite blowing a 16-point third-quarter lead.

Nets 129, 76ers 127 PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Roy Hinson scored six of his 24 points in overtime, leading New Jersey to a 129-127 victory over the Philadelphia 76ers.

Ron Anderson had 29 points and Charles Barkley 28 for the 76ers, who saw their three-game winning streak end while the Nets snapped a three-game losing streak.

Heat 103, Hornets 102 MIAMI (AP) — Rory Sparrow beat the buzzer with a turnaround jumper from the free-throw line, giving Miami a 103-102 victory over expansion rival Charlotte.

The heat, now 6-47, trailed 98-95, but a 15-foot (4.5-metre) shot and a 3-point shot by Sparrow tied the game at 100.

with 1:17 to play.

Rockets 121, Nuggets 111 HOUSTON (AP) — Akeem Olatunji had 34 points and 15 rebounds and Sleepy Floyd hit all five of his 3-point shots as the Houston Rockets defeated the Denver Nuggets 121-111.

In the fourth period, Olatunji scored seven straight points, putting Houston ahead 97-99 with 8:50 to play.

Suns 135, Celtics 126 PHOENIX (AP) — Tom Chambers scored 12 of his 40 points in the fourth quarter and keyed a decisive 16-6 run as the Phoenix Suns beat Boston 135-126, sweeping the season series from the Celtics for only the second time in 21 years.

Eddie Johnson added 37 points and Armon Gilliam 25 for the Suns, who last swept a series from Boston in 1978-79.

Supersonics 126, Bullets 112 SEATTLE (AP) — Derrick McKey scored 26 points, including a rare four-point play, and Dale Ellis and Xavier McDaniel each added 24 points, leading the Seattle Supersonics to a 126-112 victory over the Washington Bullets.

The Sonics, 21-4 at home this season, won despite losing starting power forward Michael Cage with a sprained right ankle with 2:58 left in the third quarter.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
1989 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

TAKE THE ONLY CHANCE

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ Q 4 4
♥ 7 6
♦ 8 4 2
♣ 8 5 2

WEST
♠ 7 5 3
♥ 10 9 4 2
♦ 10 6 5 3
♣ Q

EAST
♠ 10 9 8 5 4
♥ 8 5 3
♦ 9 7
♣ A 7 3

SOUTH
♠ A K
♥ A K
♦ A K Q J
♣ K J 10 9 4

The bidding:
South, West, North, East
2 ♠ Pass 2 NT Pass
3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
6 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♠

There are those who claim it is better to be born lucky than rich. We're not convinced — money can provide considerable bait for an awful lot of bad breaks in life. We are sure of South's financial standing, but from this hand, we do know that he is blessed with good fortune.

After North took a club preference, South elected to gamble on a

small slam. After all, he needed no more than the queen of clubs in partner's hand to be a lock for 12 tricks.

West led the top of his heart sequence, and the hand was over at trick two. Declarer won and, with no entry to dummy to take the trump finesse, banded down the king of clubs. When that fetched the queen, declarer claimed all the tricks except for the ace of clubs.

Now no one can quibble about the fact that declarer was lucky to find a singleton queen of clubs. However, we should give him credit for realizing that that was the only chance he had for his contract.

If the trumps were 2-2, there was no way declarer could have avoided losing for a 3-1 split. And a singleton ace would not have helped him. That would mean that one of the defenders held the queen guarded twice. A low trump from declarer would bring down the ace, but the queen would still be guarded and would not drop under the king.

Perhaps we should reconsider. There is something to be said for "bona fortuna" at the bridge table.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

World Cup ski event cancelled

OSLO, Norway (AP) — A World Cup event in ski jumping scheduled for March 2 in Skibakken near Oslo has been cancelled due to lack of snow, organizer Baerum Skiklubb announced. The club said transportation of snow from the mountains, or use of snow-producing machinery, have been outlawed because of high costs.

Graf ploughs on

FAIRFAX, Virginia (AP) — Steffi Graf, continuing her methodical devastation of the field in the Virginia Slims of Washington tournament, blasted seven aces Friday in a 6-0, 6-1 victory over Helen Klesi that put her in the semifinals of the \$300,000 tournament. Graf needed only 49 minutes to eliminate Canada's top-ranked player, surrendering only seven points on her serve and 25 overall. Graf has now lost only three games in three matches this week and has averaged a mere 43 minutes per outing. She will next face the winner of the Natalia Zvereva-Leila Meskhi match, which was to be held Friday evening.

Claydon grabs halfway lead

MELBOURNE (AP) — English amateur champion Russell Claydon fired a 4-under-par 69 Friday to earn a share of the halfway lead at the Australian Masters championship. Claydon was at 11-under-par 135 after 36 holes along with Australian Peter Fowler and Craig Parry. "I enjoyed it again, it was good fun," he said. The chunky Briton added the 69 to his first round score of 66. Parry had a 67 Friday, while Parry shot a 68. Australian Bob Shearer, who shot a 69, was next at 136. Two shots back were New Zealander Greg Waites, who had a 71, and Australian Greg Norman, who recorded his second successive 69 over the par-73, 6,955-yard Huntingdale course. Claydon said he believed he could win the event.

Calvin Smith says he was cheated

TORONTO (AP) — Calvin Smith, the 100-metre world record holder until Ben Johnson broke his mark at the 1987 world championships in Rome, says he feels cheated out of track and field's most coveted record. Smith's mark of 9.93 seconds stood for four years until Johnson ran a 9.83 in Rome. The U.S. sprinter suspected then that Johnson was using performance-enhancing drugs and that belief has strengthened since Johnson's disqualification for steroid use at the 1988 Seoul Olympics. "I don't think he could have gone that fast without the drugs," Smith said Thursday in a telephone interview from his Florida home. "Knowing Ben and his progression and the way I feel things went along the last two years, I did not feel he could set a world record."

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 1989

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

— As Charted By The Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: There is a feeling of mental pressure along with a need to communicate. The tendency is to talk about matters that are sensitive and to say things that are confusing. So before speaking, think about the effect your words will have.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Never give up — keep on laughing and Aries, the Ram, wins every time. Get back to your true spirit as positive energy is flowing again.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Shop for home furnishings and plan springtime maintenance projects. A short trip to a favorite spot is recommended.

GEORGINA (May 21 to June 21) The day may feel like not much is happening. The later day brings lively action with friends and family. Domestic affairs rate high.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Lend support to young family member's projects. Know when to stand pat and when to give in where sharing is involved.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Avoid dwelling on frustrations from the past. Set a new agenda that is more uplifting. Avoid playing favorites when dealing with siblings.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Change your thinking to positive and throw out emotional spooks that affect self-confidence and security. Prepare for the week ahead.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You may be saying "why me" when an unpleasant situation presents itself. Blaming fate will not forestall the need to make changes.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) There is no time or place more appropriate than now to show others how much you care about them. Use your positive thoughts.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You feel good. Enjoy driving somewhere. Practical things may be set aside today. Keep discussions light and energizing.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) When you worry money leaves your hands rapidly. Make contact with older people. The evening hours support gourmet dining and music.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Relationships are light and cheery. Heart-to-heart talks with your companion are good for mutual happiness. Preserve your strength.

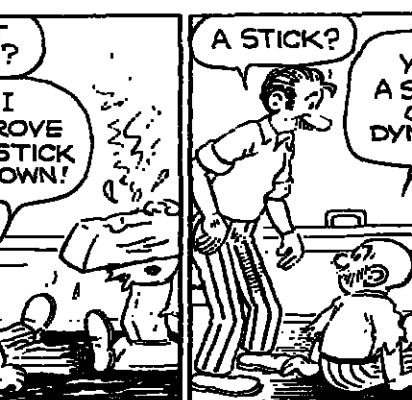
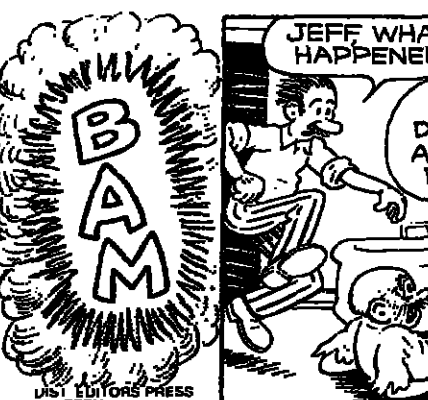
PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Attitudes improve and a cloudy day turns to emotional sunshine. Seek out areas of future disagreement and mend your fences today.

He or she will be fast, alert, friendly and gregarious. Your son or daughter will show mental brilliance, but may have difficulty with formal education in the later grades. Don't expect to keep up with your progeny as he or she will always be one step ahead of you.

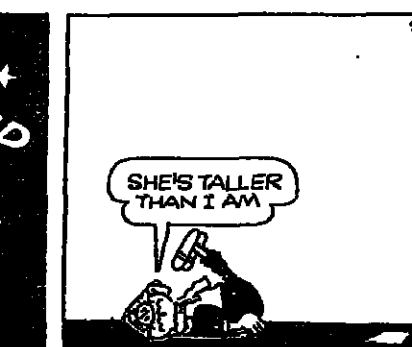
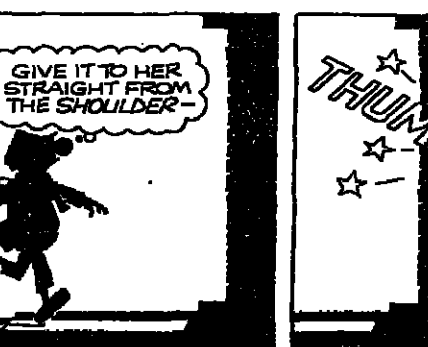
Peanuts



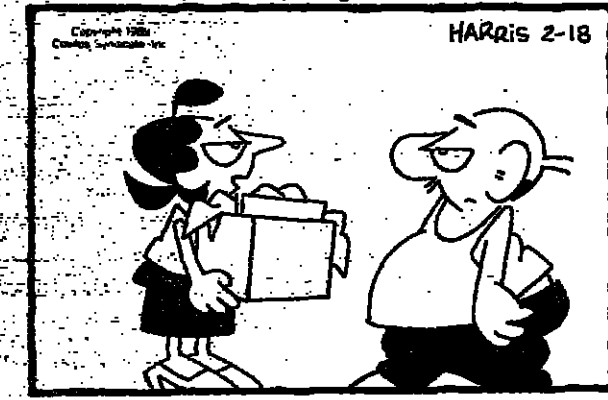
Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"The church bazaar is selling stuff people don't use anymore. Want to contribute your lips?"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles. One letter to each square, to form four ordinary words:

FREGI

SAUPE

TORICE

MUNCOL

YOU CAN'T GET RID OF A BAD TEMPER BY DOING THIS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: _____

Answers (top row)

Saturday's Jumbles: NOVEL, DRAMA, BYGONE, SCHEME

Answer: Credit might be the means to live like this — BEYOND ONE'S MEANS

Premadasa names cabinet

COLOMBO (AP) — President Ranasinghe Premadasa Saturday swore in 21 cabinet ministers but retained three posts for himself, including the defence portfolio.

Premadasa, who was elected president two months ago and whose United National Party won a parliamentary majority Wednesday in the bloodiest election in Sri Lankan history, did not designate a prime minister immediately.

More than 1,000 people were killed in the five-week-long campaign, including 56 on election day. Authorities blamed most of the deaths on a Sinhalese extremist group, the People's Liberation Front, but said some killings were carried out by Tamil separatist guerrillas.

The new cabinet is dominated by Sinhalese, the ethnic majority that has controlled the island nation's government and military establishment since independence from Britain in 1948. Two Muslims and one Tamil joined 18 Sinhalese ministers.

In addition to heading the ministry of defence, Premadasa also will serve as minister for planning and for promotion of Buddhism, the faith of most Sinhalese.

An official in the president's secretariat, speaking on condition of anonymity, said ministers would soon be appointed to foster Hinduism, the religion of the Tamil minority, and Islam, but that these ministers would not hold cabinet rank.

Lalith Athulthammudi, who was minister of national security in former President Junius R. Jayewardene's cabinet, was given the agriculture portfolio. Premadasa abolished the Ministry of National Security, and party sources said Athulthammudi was a leading contender for prime minister.

In the Sri Lankan government system, the presidency is the most powerful post. The prime minister's job consists primarily of helping carry out government programmes.

Foremost on Premadasa's list of priorities is an anti-poverty programme that he be-

lieves will help ease ethnic tensions.

The new foreign minister is Ranjan Wijeratne, chairman of the United National Party. The finance minister is D.B. Wijetunge, who was telecommunications minister under Jayewardene.

Shahul Hameed, a Muslim and the previous foreign minister, was named minister of high education, science and technology.

The United National Party won 125 of the 225 parliament seats in an election that both Sinhalese extremists and Tamil separatists tried to disrupt. About 63 per cent of the country's 9.3 eligible voters turned out to cast ballots, despite the death threats by extremists.

Sinhalese make up about 75 per cent of the population of 16 million people, while Tamils account for 18 per cent and Muslims about seven per cent.

The Tamil separatist war in northern and eastern Sri Lanka broke out in 1983 and has claimed more than 8,500 lives.

Iran rejects Rushdie apology

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's official news agency, IRNA, said Saturday a statement by Salman Rushdie regretting distress caused to Muslims by his novel 'The Satanic Verses' fell short of public repentance.

IRNA quoted Rushdie's statement in full but said he had "made no indication of his repentance or that his slanderous book would be withdrawn."

Rushdie's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini last Tuesday ordered Muslims to kill the British novelist for blaspheming the Islamic faith. Iranian clerics have placed a bounty of up to \$6 million on his head.

IRNA said in a commentary: "Muslim heretic Salman Rushdie has formally apologised for his slanderous book on Islam."

But it said Rushdie made no indication of repentance or that he would withdraw his book.

Rushdie "had been under growing pressure to make a public repentance that his statement is seen falling well short of."

The statement followed hours of meetings between the novelist and his publishers, Viking Penguin, who had also received death threats shortly after publication of the book five months ago.

The statement was immediately welcomed by some members of Britain's Muslim community. The Islamic Society for the Promotion of Religious Tolerance said in a statement:

"We very much welcome Mr. Rushdie's apology and hope that it will now pave the way out of this unfortunate crisis."

The British government had made clear its displeasure over Khomeini's order but adopted a low-key response because of fears for three of its nationals held hostage by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon.

The Foreign Office said Wednesday that it was freezing plans to increase its embassy staff.

'Poverty a bomb ready to explode'

GENEVA (R) — Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo said Friday that Third World poverty was a bomb ready to explode.

No one could reasonably be expected to travel unconcerned on a ship carrying a bomb somewhere on deck.

"Yet this is the social and economic situation of the Third World. It is like a bomb ready to explode on this Earth," he told 1,400 delegates from over 100 nations attending the annual meeting of the U.N. Human Rights Commission.

Caputo, addressing the commission as president of the United Nations General Assembly, said major progress had been achieved towards disarmament and the solution of regional conflicts thanks to improved super-power relations.

There was more interdependence in the world but that was no guarantee of peace when two-thirds of mankind enjoyed neither freedom nor well-being, he added.

There had never been so many democracies in Latin America but they were "poor democracies" and the continent's newfound freedom was threatened by left- and right-wing terrorists.

Caputo cited the case of his own country where a far-left guerrilla group attacked a military base on the outskirts of Buenos Aires Jan. 23.

Unlike what happened during what he called Argentina's "dark night" when a military dictatorship ruthlessly suppressed leftist guerrillas, Argentina would respond to terrorist aggression while exercising the fullest respect for human rights, he said.

"This is what makes us superior to them," he said, adding: "There is a two-fold challenge to human rights — to preserve freedom and to do so through legal means."

in Tehran but stopped short of breaking relations which were restored to full diplomatic status only three months ago.

The Foreign Office was not consulted on the contents of the statement but a spokesman said the publishers had been in touch with officials since the uproar began.

"If the statement serves to cool passions then nobody could say that was not a good thing," the spokesman said.

There was no immediate reaction from the more fundamentalist Muslim leaders in Britain, some of whom burned the book in the northern city of Bradford last month.

Iranian demonstrators stoned the British embassy in Tehran Wednesday in protest at the book but none of the three diplomats and support staff was hurt.

Rushdie, 41, said earlier that his fictional book, a surrealistic account of a battle between good

and evil, was not meant as an insult to Muslims.

France said Saturday its ambassador to Iran would not return to Tehran for the time being pending consultations on the Iranian threat to kill the author.

A government spokesman said envoy Christian Graeff was now in Paris and had been asked by Foreign Minister Roland Dumas to postpone his return to Iran. He confirmed the move was linked to the Rushdie threat, which Paris has condemned.

The spokesman said Graeff had been due to return to Iran Sunday. He noted that Dumas and his 11 European Community (EC) colleagues would be discussing the crisis at a regular meeting in Brussels next week.

West Germany said Friday it had withdrawn its charge d'affaires from Tehran for consultations after Khomeini ordered the killing.

The Italian Foreign Ministry Friday ruled out a ban on Salman Rushdie's controversial novel 'The Satanic Verses' and police sources said the Italian publishers would be given special protec-

tion. The ministry said it recognised that the novel could offend Muslims but was disturbed by death threats from Iranian leaders, due to go on sale in Italy in translation next week.

The police sources said senior anti-terrorist officers had met executives of Italian publishers Arnoldo Mondadori Editore Spa in Milan Friday to discuss security precautions.

The statement was the first official Italian response in the international controversy over Rushdie's novel.

Muslim students in Europe have pledged to try to kill Rushdie in compliance with the Khomeini's wishes, Tehran Radio said Saturday.

The radio quoted a statement from the Union of Islamic Students' Associations in Europe as saying members would do all they could to obey the Iranian leader's order.

"We... will utilise all our capabilities to obey and implement the religious decree of the imam of the nation," the statement said.

Officials plan for second round of Kampuchea talks

JAKARTA (AP) — Public optimism mixed with antagonism Saturday as officials made final preparations for a second round of multilateral peace talks on Kampuchea.

"I believe we have come to a final stage of the problem," said Hun Sen, prime minister of Kampuchea's pro-Vietnamese government, upon arrival in Jakarta Saturday.

Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach said half of the talks' obstacles have been surmounted and he was determined to achieve successful multilateral talks on ending his country's occupation of Kampuchea.

But the other participants in the talks have shown little interest in making compromises to end the 10-year-old war.

The three-day talks are to begin Sunday and will bring together Vietnam, the government of Kampuchea, the three guerrilla groups battling them, Western and Asian allies of the two sides also will participate.

Thach claimed that 50 per cent of the problem already has been solved, and said that he would

work hard to make the talks a success.

Khieu Samphan, nominal leader of the largest guerrilla group, the Khmer Rouge, said in a statement upon his arrival that he would "spare no efforts" to get the conflict resolved as soon as possible, but he repeated a guerrilla peace plan that the other side already has rejected.

The antagonisms were obvious during sessions of the lower-level "working groups" that have been working since Thursday to prepare for the talks.

The sharp exchanges have cast doubt on whether any progress will be made in the talks seeking to end the war that erupted after Vietnamese troops invaded Kampuchea in December 1978 and ousted the Khmer Rouge.

The talks will also involve the pro-resistance Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) — Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines, Singapore, Malaysia and Brunei.

The resistance is an uneasy alliance of the communist Khmer Rouge, the non-communist Khmer People's National Liberation Front of former Kampuchean Premier Son Sann, and

followers of former Kampuchean leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

The resistance and Vietnam also engaged in sharp exchanges at the first round of multilateral talks, held just outside Jakarta last July. But consensus was reached on some issues.

The warring parties go into the talks touting peace plans already rejected by the other side. Sihanouk has stated he will not attend the talks because his proposals had already been dismissed. His son will represent the Sihanouk faction.

The representative of the Vietnamese-installed government, Hor Nam Hong, Friday repeated his government's rejection of the resistance demand that the government be dismantled and a new provisional government formed before a general election is held.

Hong has offered a "national reconciliation council" headed by Sihanouk to organise the election, but said the pro-Vietnamese government must continue to oversee the country's administration until results of the polling. The resistance says elections cannot be free and fair under those conditions.

Seoul haircuts can ruin your health

SEOUL (R) — Men in the South Korean capital run more risk of contracting venereal disease at the barber's than in one of the city's brothels, according to a health ministry report released Friday.

A ministry official said the report, based on a "blood sampling raid" of 150 barber shops in Seoul nightlife districts, showed more than one in five female employees were infected with syphilis, gonorrhea or some other sexually transmitted disease. No instances of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) were recorded. Many South Korean hairdressing salons provide: curtained-off cubicles with low pink lighting where women provide what the government refers to as "lewd services."

Charles fails to recognise statue

LONDON (R) — Prince Charles got a Valentine's Day present last week but failed to recognise it as a bust of his wife, Princess Diana. As 80-year-old sculptor Sir John Jackson made the presentation, the British royal heir, on a visit to north England, thanked him and asked: "By the way, who is it?"

After a short, shocked silence, Jackson said: "It's your wife, sir. His sister-in-law, the Duchess of York, marked the day by sporting a huge, heart-shaped brooch of sapphires but kept the name of her admirer a secret. The duchess, the former Sarah Ferguson, popularly known as 'Fergie', wore the glittering brooch on a visit to a hospital near London on Tuesday. Officials refused to say whether it was a gift from her husband, Queen Elizabeth's second son Prince Andrew."

Collective farm has something special

MOSCOW (AP) — The Bolshevik collective farm in the Soviet Union's Voronezh region has something special to show cattle breeders — a six-legged bull calf. The calf, says the Soviet news agency TASS Tuesday in a report from Kalach, was born eight months ago. The unconventional calf also was born with a shorter-than-normal tail, and a very flamboyant, says TASS, adding that its two extra legs look exactly like its normal four — except that they grow upwards.

Yugoslavia party reshuffled

BELGRADE (AP) — The Yugoslav Communist Party's Central Committee expelled four top officials Friday, including a former party chief, and named 33 new members, the official news agency reported.

The closed-door session of the policy-setting body also accepted the resignation of Raif Dizdarevic, Yugoslavia's current state president, from membership in the Central Committee. Dizdarevic's resignation conformed with a new policy requiring a separation of party and state functions.

Thirty-three new members were elected to the 165-person committee before its session ended late Friday, reported the official news agency, Tanjug.

The new committee officials replaced members whose resignations had been announced before the meeting. Most of the new members were from the province of Vojvodina and the republic of Montenegro, where the local party leaderships resigned under

popular pressure.

The committee meeting was part of the party's efforts to sort out Yugoslavia's complex political, economic and social problems by bringing in younger men to replace leaders who have failed to tackle the country's past difficulties.

The Central Committee decided last October to renew about one-third of its membership, but ruled that officials could no longer hold a top party post at the same time as serving in a state or federal government position.

Friday's meeting also was the latest in a string of Central Committee meetings aimed at trying to end quarrelling among party leaders.

The popularity of the League of Communists, as the party is officially known, has declined in recent years because its leaders have failed to solve Yugoslavia's economic crisis.

Social unrest is growing because of the country's 300-per cent inflation rate, 17-per cent

unemployment and declining living standards.

In the poor southern province of Kosovo, authorities have failed to halt ethnic strife between the Albanian majority and the Slavic minority. The Slavs say the Albanians discriminate against them.

Milanko Renovica, 60, Yugoslav party chief from 1986-87, and three other senior officials from the central republic of Bosnia were ousted by the Central Committee for misusing government money to build holiday homes in the Adriatic resort of Neum. Tanjug said.

Like Renovica, the other three ousted Bosnian officials were longtime regional bosses — Mato Andric, 60, Nikola Stojanovic, 55, and Hrovic Istak, also 55.

The Neum scandal, in which dozens of Bosnian politicians were found to have used their political clout to illegally obtain bank loans on giveaway terms, has caused the downfall of almost the entire ruling elite in that region.

Arctic probe reveals signs of ozone layer breakdown

OSLO (R) — The Earth's protective ozone layer seems to have broken down over the Arctic, a team of international scientists said Friday, but it is not yet clear to what extent pollution may be to blame.

About 150 scientists from various countries have been investigating the ozone layer for six weeks from a base in Stavanger on Norway's west coast.

The project, known officially as the Airborne Arctic Stratospheric Experiment, was completed at the end of last week. In a statement summarising their first findings, the scientists said: "Measurements carried out towards the end of the project indicate that a photochemical breakdown of ozone has taken

place... the stratospheric chemical composition over the Arctic area was found to be strongly disturbed."

"Further analysis of the data will be needed before one will be able to categorically state that this is the case."

"We have to take this seriously," said Professor Ivar Isaksen of Oslo University's department of geophysics. "The ozone layer over the Arctic is increasingly breaking down."

"We have the same process in the Arctic as we had in the Antarctic," Isaksen, who took part in the project, told a news conference.

In 1987, scientists discovered a large hole in the ozone layer above the Antarctic and earlier

this week Canadian scientists said they had found clouds of frozen nitric acid eating up the ozone layer above the North Pole.

Isaksen, emphasising that the project's preliminary findings would need further investigation, said there was no hole in the ozone layer over the Arctic. But he could give no precise figures on the extent of ozone depletion.

"It is difficult to conclude what has been caused by chemical activities and what is due to natural change," he added.

Many scientists have blamed the release of chemicals called chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) into the atmosphere for problems with the ozone layer. CFCs are used in aerosols, to cool refrigerators and to produce plastic foam.

Balloonist gives up crossing attempt

TOKYO (AP) — A fishing vessel Saturday sailed toward 38-year-old Fumio Niwa, who was floating in the tiny gondola of his helium balloon after giving up his attempt to cross the Pacific Ocean solo.

Niwa gave up his attempt because of uncooperative winds and ditched into the ocean 2,500 kilometres southeast of Tokyo, said Kenji Fukawa, Niwa's project spokesman.

Guided by an anti-submarine aircraft, the number one Yasuei-Maru, a 59-tonne boat fishing in the area where Niwa came down, set out in the afternoon to attempt the rescue, said a maritime safety agency official.

The vessel was expected to reach Niwa before midnight

Saturday (1500 GMT) but could be delayed due to strong winds and rough seas, said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

On Saturday afternoon, a Soviet freighter passed near the balloonist but before Niwa could make radio contact, large waves shifted his globular gondola out of the area, said another maritime agency official.

At one point, Niwa opened a window at the top of his gondola to let in fresh air and combat a bout of severe seasickness, officials said. Despite the waves, he reported that no water entered the tiny capsule, measuring 1.8 metres in diameter, said Fukawa, quoting a P-3C pilot who had radio contact with Niwa.

The balloonist took off from his hometown of Yokohama, near Tokyo, early Wednesday with seven days' worth of food on board. He originally planned to reach his target of San Diego in about four days by grabbing a ride on the jet stream, the high-speed, high-altitude winds that generally blow west to east.

But since his departure, the winds have curved northerly toward Alaska, forcing Niwa to stay at a low altitude.

Niwa, an experienced balloonist, quit his job with a computer firm three months ago to prepare for the journey.

In 1981, four men successfully crossed the Pacific Ocean by balloon for the first time, but no one has travelled the distance alone.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Dalai Lama wants talks

DHARMSALA, India (AP) — The Dalai Lama, temporal and spiritual leader of Tibetans, says he hopes talks with Chinese officials on the future of his homeland will take place in one or two months in Geneva. A tape recording of the Dalai Lama's remarks, made Thursday at a religious gathering in a remote part of India, was released Saturday in Dharamsala, headquarters of the Tibetan government-in-exile. The Dalai Lama, revered by his followers as a god-king and the 14th reincarnation of Buddha, said he may join the talks if they progress well. He spoke to about 1,500 Tibetan refugees at Bir, 70 kilometres north of Dharamsala in the Himalayan foothills, where he inaugurated a Buddhist monastery.

North trial to start Tuesday

WASHINGTON (R) — The trial of former White House aide Oliver North in the Iran-contra case will start next Tuesday, according to the U.S. district court. "The jury will be sworn in and the trial will start at 9:30 a.m. (1430 GMT) Tuesday morning, Feb. 21," a telephone tape-recording prepared by court officials announced Friday afternoon. Although the most serious conspiracy charges against him have been dropped, North is charged with

lying to Congress, shredding secret documents and using government money for himself in a plan to divert funds to the Nicaraguan contra rebels from secret U.S. arms sales to Iran. The start of the trial comes after several months of delays while lawyers for North and special prosecutor Lawrence Walsh wrangled over how to protect evidence that the government fears might threaten national security if it was made public.

Hudson's lover awarded more money

LOS ANGELES (R) — A jury that awarded the male lover of the late film star rock Hudson \$14.5 million Wednesday gave him another \$7.25 million Friday. Hudson's lover, Marc Christian, had originally sought \$11 million on the grounds Hudson and his former private secretary, Mark Miller, had engaged in outrageous conduct by concealing the fact that Hudson had AIDS. After ruling Hudson's estate would have to pay Christian \$14.5 million in compensatory damages, the jury decided Friday that Miller would have to pay \$7.25 million. The jury decided Hudson, who died in October 1985, and Miller had intentionally concealed from Christian, a former bartender, that Hudson was suffering from AIDS while continuing to have sex with him. Christian elatedly told reporters: "I thought maybe \$1 million, or \$2 million. It was just a total shock."

THE Sunday Crossword

Edited by Herb Edmonson

Containers
By Bert H. Kras

ACROSS
1 Chain, name
5 Flavourful
10 Nearly dry
14 Like the piper
18 Dickens' wife
19 Middle Eastern
20 South Bend
21 Team
22 Eye amorously
23 Beach
24 Vandal's it, raid
25 US satellite
27 "I Fell for"

DOWN
1 Commercial
2 Out grass
3 Marmite
4 Stewpot
5 Actors
6 Vase
7 Dutch island
8 Producer
9 Pines need
10 Women
11 Symbolically
12 Idea
13 Puerile
14 Inquire
15 Legend
16 Shakespeare's
17 Stravinsky
18 Salvo's paint
19 Poet grades

20 "A House —
21 Dominoes
22 House plants
23 On the air
24 Link leads
25 Simple sugar
26 God of love
27 Low-down
28 Fabrics
29 Exile
30 Do wrong
31 Do wrong
32 Do wrong
33 Having
34 Wave
35 Modern priests
36 Read or Milla
37 "A Hot Tin
38 Indian garment
39 Chinese prot.

34 Throw —
35 Flavourful
36 Trapped
37 Heatside
38 Dickens' wife
39 Simple sugar
40 God of love
41 Low-down
42 Fabrics
43 Exile
44 Do wrong
45 Do wrong
46 Having
47 Wave
48 Modern priests
49 Read or Milla
50 "A Hot Tin
51 Indian garment
52 Chinese prot.

60 Main artery
61 Star
62 Eerie
63 Dugout canoe
64 Apple
65 US statesman
66 Sky star
67 Apple
68 Medication unit
69 Mass of
70 Easily handled
71 Frank cantors
72 Air fox
73 Buenos —
74 Gorge
75 Arrow
76 Rascal
77 Fountain of
78 Pile up
79 Triton

80 Lazy one's
81 Barber's used
82 Saw the sights
83 Her wife to
84 New
85 Biblically apt
86 World-weary
87 Wasp
88 Reached
89 Russian
90 Mountains
91 React to a
92 Shock
93 Sole tributary
94 Mr. Paris
95 Tower left
96 Shaded
97 Royal kilt
98 Comp. pl.
99 Famous Eng.
100 Gardens
101 Matched
102 Unusually

103 Stop on —
104 Help out
105 "Able — I
106 Concluding
107 word
108 Fixed time
109 limit
110 SPOKE word
111 Most study
112 Inspires
113 Devised
114 Title
115 Unusually

116 Fresh over
117 "Tapestry"
118 Sprit
119 Sheep snack
120 Single person
121 Unsettled
122 February
123 Question
124 Strong
125 Wind
126 Keatsian poem
127 Prohibit

128 Modern day
129 Panle
130 Desire
131 USA word
132 Make excessive
133 Claims for
134 Jeweled
135 Headresses
136 Small
137 Soughbird
138 Legal matter
139 Loyol

140 Rowboat needs
141 Far from
142 Favorites
143 Swooshes
144 Single
145 About
146 Last word
147 Jeweled
148 Cod of war
149 Falls behind
150 Herd band
151 Art, grassland

152 Everything
153 Counted
154 Rebelions
155 Against
156 Government
157 Francisco
158 Sighted
159 Instrument
160 Space between
161 Certain objects
162 Fortresses
163 Exclusive group

164 Frighten
165 Help out
166 "Able — I
167 Concluding
168 word
169 Fixed time
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